

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to redefine public service and "reduce" government?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Floodwaters Ebb

Evacuated victims began returning to homes caked in sludge on Friday as Australia's flood crisis eased.

Asia...Page 11



Leadership Seminar

This month, the United Filipino Organization is getting ready to conduct a leadership seminar before they hold the election for a new set of officers.

Maharlika...Page 12



Pressly Arrested

Authorities in California say actress Jaime Pressly has been arrested in Santa Monica for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Life & Style... Page 21



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, along with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), left, laugh at each other's jokes toward the end of a five-hour full leadership meeting in a private room on the second floor of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

Hopes high during Fitial meeting with lawmakers

» Plans to avert payless paydays, boost tourism with \$6.2M incentive program in the works

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What was planned as a three-hour full leadership meeting turned into five hours yesterday, but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and lawmakers walked away with joint plans to stop payless paydays, address cash shortfall of some \$6 million in the first quarter and succeeding quarters, and generate more revenue that includes finally giving \$6.2 million to the airline incentive program to boost tourism.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos held a closed-door meeting with 24 of 29 members of the Senate and House shortly before 12 noon in a private room on the second floor of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

The meeting, which was originally planned to last until 2:30pm or 3pm, lasted until about 5pm.

Reporters were not allowed to come in until at least shortly after 5pm, but only to take photos.

In an interview after the meeting, Fitial

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Hoyer introduces resolution to restore voting rights to delegates

WASHINGTON, DC—House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) yesterday introduced a resolution that would amend the House rules to allow delegates and the resident commissioner to vote in the Committee of the Whole House.

The delegates of the District of Columbia, Ameri-

can Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico—who represent approximately 5 million American citizens—were allowed to vote in the Committee of the Whole House in the 110th and

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Hoyer

Fitial now back to Republican Party

» Governor's end goal to merge Covenant with GOP

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has been accepted back to the Republican Party of the NMI which he helped organize and lead for the longest time before forming in 2001 his own Covenant Party that helped him win the 2005 gubernatorial election. He got reelected last year.

Republican Party president Juan I. Tenorio and ad-hoc Executive Committee chair Juan S. Reyes said yesterday that Fitial has been admitted back to the GOP effective Jan. 5.

Tenorio reiterated that there's no decision to merge the Republican

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SHEFA reverses decision on half of denied applicants. PAGE 2
CUC water accounts drop by 12.5%. PAGE 3

Local

SHEFA reverses decision on half of denied applicants

» Final notice to be sent out to affected students; disbursement of 114 checks sought

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance administrator Henry Hofschneider disclosed that after reviewing all denied applications, the committee decided to reverse more than half of the appeals.

Hofschneider disclosed that there were a total of 64 students who appealed to the board following the rejection of their applications for Fall semester due to residency. Of the figure, the board first reversed its decision on 28 appeals and an additional six applicants were accepted

during its last meeting, totaling 34 reversed cases.

SHEFA earlier admitted that the board found an oversight on the applications of many students that were denied in the program.

Hofschneider said that the 30 other appeals have been reassessed and the committee upheld the rejection after finding out that majority of them lack the required number of residency as criteria in the scholarship program.

All affected students will be notified of the board's action including the reversed and rejected cases.

But Hofschneider said that since the rejected applications were for Fall 2010 semester, SHEFA will consider their applications as "new" for the Spring 2011.

"We don't want to prolong the process and keep them waiting for the result so everybody will be notified of the board's action explaining the reason of their rejection—in the case of those who were not reversed," explained Hofschneider.

'Check request for 114 students'

As of this week, Hofschneider said that SHEFA is still waiting

for the disbursement of another batch of 114 checks for grant-in-aid scholars.

He admitted that due to the present financial cash flow problem of the government, actual disbursement has been delayed but he's hopeful that the requested checks will be out by next week.

Last month, a total of 147 checks for scholars were disbursed to recipients, of which 63 were issued out to off-island scholars while 84 checks were released to on-island recipients including the 12 students from Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

Hofschneider said the 147 checks only cover the grant-in-aid program, which provides \$2,000 assistance for off-island scholars; \$1,200 for on-island recipients; and \$800 each for the scholars of NMTL.

Saipan Tribune learned that as of this week, there are still 132 grant-in-aid scholars who have yet to receive their checks.

"We're communicating with the finance and the treasury in a daily basis... and it's our goal to complete the disbursement of all grant-in-aid checks soon," said Hofschneider in a visit at his office.

For Fall semester, SHEFA received over 900 applications of which 628 were approved of scholarship assistance, excluding the 34 reversed cases.

Each fiscal year, the Legis-

lature appropriates \$3 million in funding for the SHEFA scholars who receive the following awards: grant-in-aid, priority field of study, and incentive award.

SHEFA is a scholarship program that provides students up to \$5,000 financial assistance from poker fees. Its mission is to provide supplementary financial assistance, upon availability of funds pursuant to Saipan Local Law 13-21, to qualified residents of Saipan, inclusive of the Northern Islands, in pursuing post-secondary education on Saipan or abroad. Recipients are expected to return to the island with the necessary and sufficient knowledge and skill to work in government or private sector.

Fund wants non-DB matters removed from its responsibility

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar said yesterday the agency wants all non-defined benefit matters be removed from its responsibility so the Fund could focus on the pension plan that is related to members.

Among these non-DB matters is the Group Health Life Insurance, which the Fund is being administered for the government. He wants the specific responsibility be taken care of by other agencies such as the office of personnel management or the Department of Finance.

It was during its last meeting when some trustees expressed frustration on the "problems and blames" they received for GHLI program, which ultimately is not the Fund's responsibility.

"The board is in favor of transferring any non-DB matters away from the Fund. The

GHLI is a non-DB matter and it should be reviewed by the government and be transferred to appropriate agency; maybe to OPM or somewhere in Finance. The goal of the board is to make sure the Fund focuses on the pension plan that is directly related to DB members," said Igisomar.

Also pending in the Legislature is a bill proposing to transfer the administrative function of the Worker's Compensation Law to the commerce department.

The bill stated that commerce is the appropriate government entity to administer the functions of the Worker's Compensation due to its status as a permitting and enforcement agency to ensure compliance with the Worker's Compensation Law, and to facilitate the implementation of "one-stop business processing" procedures.

Igisomar said that like GHLI, "the board is favorable to this transfer."

Judiciary starts partial closure of operations every Friday on Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_dela Torre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary yesterday started implementing the partial closure of operations every Friday on Saipan.

Only Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman conducted proceedings yesterday—two bail hearings.

The cashier's office and the recorder's office were closed, while other offices were open. Only a few court staff were seen in their offices.

Court marshals informed some customers who wanted to pay for police clearances, car registrations, and traffic clear-

ances that the cashier's office was closed.

"This is getting worse," a court staff told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to their salary cuts.

The Judiciary began implementing the partial closure of court operations every other Friday on Saipan last Nov. 12. Effective yesterday, court operations, however, will be partially closed every Friday on Saipan.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja had stated last year that the government's budget for the fiscal year is not enough to meet personnel and operations costs, hence the need to implement the Friday partial closures.



BEFORE THE MEETING

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from left, is greeted by lawmakers including Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), left, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), third from left, and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), right, as Inos arrives for the closed-door full leadership meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2 men arrested for allegedly beating up 2 men during New Year's party near church

Police arrested on Thursday two men who allegedly barged inside a beauty parlor's kitchen located near San Jose Church where a party was held on New Year's Day and beat up two men.

Redson R. Herwin, 41, and Isai F. Roby, 25, were served with an arrest warrant on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed

a \$500 cash bail each for the temporary release of Herwin and Roby.

Police said the victims—Edison Duron and Fortunato D. Roa Jr.—suffered severe swelling on their face and were brought to the hospital.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that on Jan. 1 at 1:43am, police officers responded to Jeanine Beauty Salon in San Jose after receiving a call about a disturbance in progress.

Castro said responding of-

ficers noticed that some personal belongings in the kitchen area of the beauty parlor were damaged.

Castro said victims Duron and Roa, whose face were covered with blood, approached one of the officers and asked for help.

The victims said the suspects came to their party and punched them repeatedly on their face.

The victims pointed to a house just behind Morgan Building where one of the sus-

pects fled.

When an officer got closer to the house, Herwin was seen running into a house.

Castro said later a witness identified Herwin and Roby as the persons who beat up the victims.

Castro said his further investigation revealed that Herwin was supposed to surrender a registered firearm to the Department of Public Safety's records and firearms section on Jan. 3, 2011. (Ferdie de la Torre)

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CUC water accounts drop by 12.5%

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has recorded a reduction in the total number of water accounts—from 11,516 to 10,081—as of Jan. 3 as a result of placing numerous individual accounts to a “master meter.” The figures reflect 12.5 percent decline.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed this in his Jan. 4 declaration in court reporting about the agency’s water metering project.

Warren indicated that as of Aug. 18, 2010 CUC noted 2,724 active estimated billing accounts and 1,798 active unmetered accounts.

But as of this month, progress has been noted by the local agency as a result of the water metering project being implemented.

“As of Jan. 2, 2011 there are an estimated 578 active billing accounts and 870 active unmetered accounts, which is a total reduction of 3,074 accounts [68 percent]. In addition, closed unmetered accounts were reduced from 1,803 accounts to 1,090 accounts,” said Warren in his latest declaration.

Warren said CUC, prior to the

water metering project, referred both the unmetered accounts and estimated accounts as “flat rate” accounts.

He revealed that during the metering process, numerous accounts were identified that should have been billed under a “master meter” instead of individually.

“Resolving these cases for the active accounts had the spillover effect of correcting the closed accounts in the same locations. The end result is that total water accounts have declined from 11,516 to 10,081 or 12.5 percent,” said Warren, adding that CUC anticipates that these reductions will continue as the water metering project is completed.

Warren said CUC was planning to complete the metering project by Jan. 31—the deadline set under the stipulated order. But due to the existing financial state of the agency that resulted to streamlining both personnel and overtime costs, the official hinted that they may not meet the deadline.

He said CUC has up to eight crews working six days per week, 12 hours per day on this project. They also rented several vehicles

to facilitate the crews’ ability to timely complete the project in its aim to meet the deadline.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC estimated that it would need \$17 million to resolve all issues on water problems on island, including installation of working meters.

The figure was based on the assessment of the chief of engineering for water and waste water.

CUC earlier pointed out that when all customers are metered and water is properly accounted for, the consumption drops; system pressure improves; chlorination and pumping costs fall.

CUC also disclosed earlier that it may take three years to complete the metering at the current rate at which flat rates were replaced with meters, and then billed in the system.

It claimed that for every 10 gallons of pumped water only four to five gallons are being billed while the rest is considered “loss” due to some factors. The “unbilled usage” or stolen amounts from the CUC account was among the major reason of big losses, followed by the water leaks found in some customers.

Teenager greets ‘Merry Christmas’ then beats up man on Rota

» Victim lost consciousness, taken to hospital

A man lost consciousness when a teenager greeted him “Merry Christmas” then allegedly beat him up last Dec. 31 on Rota.

Marty S. Concepcion, 18, was arrested on Thursday for aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery.

The victim, Jamal S. Bepary, was transported to Rota Health Center due to a cut and bump on the back of his head.

At yesterday’s hearing on Saipan, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman

imposed a \$1,500 cash bail for Concepcion’s temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 13 at 9am.

Sgt. John W. King stated in his report that on Dec. 20, 2010 at 7:33pm, Rota police received a call about two individuals fighting in front of a residence in Sinapalo I.

King said when a police officer arrived at the scene, he observed the injured Bepary going in and out of consciousness.

King said Bepary, who could not recall anything, was taken by an ambulance to Rota Health Center.

King said during his interview on the following day, Bepary recalled that on the night of Dec.

30 while he was near the driveway of a residence of Antonio C. Atalig, Concepcion called him.

Concepcion then approached Bepary, greeted him “Merry Christmas” and shook his hands.

The suspect asked Bepary if he was going for a stroll, then suddenly punched him on the face.

When Bepary asked why he punched him, Concepcion allegedly took a piece of stick and kicked him on the body.

As Bepary fell to the ground, the suspect threatened to kill him then struck something on his head. As a result, the victim lost consciousness. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas PitBull general membership meeting today

Marianas PitBull will hold a general membership meeting today, Jan. 9, at the Old Japanese Hospital (CNMI Museum) Middle Road across Garapan Central Park from 2pm to 4pm. Important matters to be discussed include the association’s upcoming event. *(PR)*

9 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Bird Island Beach, Jeffries Beach, Hidden Beach, Old Man by the Sea, Tank Sea, North Laulau Beach, South Laulau Beach, Ladder Beach and Unai Dang-kulo and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*

1 Rota beach site red-flagged

The division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the West Harbor Marina and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these

locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*

OES PTSA meeting on Jan. 11

The Oleai Elementary School PTSA will have a meeting on Jan. 11 beginning at 6pm at the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting. *(PR)*

Art of Marriage Conference

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way, you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 11-12. The cost is \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. There is only room for 25 couples. If you would like to reserve your space a \$20 deposit is required or you can pay the full amount. Contact Jill at 483-7245 or e-mail only1jillc@yahoo.com. For more information you can visit www.familylife.com/theartof-marriage. *(PR)*

PH Consulate to offer Saturday, Sunday

services in 2011

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan plans to continue its One-Sunday-A-Month Consular services, with an additional plan of alternating Saturday services for 2011.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said this is due to the number of Filipinos in the CNMI who have availed of these weekend consular services.

The Philippine Consulate General will have the following weekend schedule for the first six months of 2011:

- January 30, Sunday
- February 26, Saturday
- March 20, Sunday
- April 16, Saturday
- May 22, Sunday
- June 25, Saturday

The office will be open to provide consular services and it will observe its usual office hours from 9am to 4pm without lunch breaks.

For inquiries on any consular service, contact the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1850, fax 234-1849 or email saipan-pcg@pticom.com. *(PR)*

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SWEPT AWAY

Huge waves and strong sea current from Sunday to the early part of this week washed away some 10 feet of sand from the water to the foot of the Sugar Dock Beach in Chalan Kanoa. Inset shows Coastal Resources Management director Rita Chong, second from right, personally inspecting the ongoing Sugar Dock rehabilitation project on Wednesday after false allegations reached her office about the activities at the site. The project is expected to be completed by the Feb. 3, 2011 deadline.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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Samoa PM downplays death threats

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer)—Plots against him including threats on his life are made all the time, Samoa's Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi has told the *Samoa Observer*.

Tuilaepa made the comment when he confirmed that the police are still investigating an alleged plot to assassinate him and Chief Justice Patu Tiava

'asu'e Sapolu.

"The police ring me every now and then that someone is plotting against me, Tuilaepa said. I'm used to it. It's not something new. It happens all the time."

What's new, however, is that the threat reached the *Samoa Observer*, which published a story about it on

Dec. 5 2010 detailing the threat.

"This is the first time that something has been reported in the media," Tuilaepa said.

The reports about the alleged threat emerged in early November. They said the "son" of paroled murderer and former Minister of State Leafa Vitale had made "threatening" remarks in connection with the murder of Cabinet Minister Luagalau Levaula Kamu back in 1999.

They were apparently made during

"refreshments" in a company premises at Vaitele one evening after work on a certain public "contract" had been completed.

Leafa and another Cabinet Minister Toi Aokuso were convicted of plotting the murder of Luagalau and were jailed for life in 2000.

Around that time, both Leafa Vitale and Toi Aokuso had served separately as Ministers of the Electric Power Corporation.

Leafa's son Alatis, who fired the shot that killed Luagalau, was also jailed for life.

Toi Aokuso died while he was serving his sentence, but Leafa and Alatis were paroled late last year.

During the course of the 2000 trial though, prosecution gave evidence that Leafa had coerced his son to kill Luagalau.

The court was also told Leafa had advised his son that after he had "pulled" Luagalau he was to wait for a while, then he would have to go out and "pull the Prime Minister" and the "fat judge" as well. That was over 10 years ago.

In November 2010, the threatening words used were "a le talia le palola a lou tama e toe pa le mea," the reports say.

The remarks, in translation, say "if

they don't parole my father a gunshot will blast again."

The man who made the remarks is said to be "a son of Leafa Vitale's."

But the "threatening remarks he reportedly made might have remained a secret to this day had he not made them when "a woman who was there at the time" overheard them, and was "very worried" by them.

Concerned, she approached a certain government official she knew and related to him what she had heard.

And now concerned himself, the official apparently told the woman the matter was a serious one and that it had to be reported to the police.

She was also warned the "threatening" remarks would be relayed to the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice. The woman then apparently revealed he knew one of the people who were having "refreshments" there that evening.

Told of the threat in 2010, Tuilaepa thanked the *Samoa Observer*.

"I thank you for bringing this to my attention. Because of the names and people mentioned I am taking this seriously. This is a matter for the police to investigate."

In December 2010, the family of Leafa declined to comment on the matter.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Party and the Covenant Party, but only to admit the governor as an individual member.

He said Covenant Party members who want to join or rejoin the Republican Party need to write a formal letter of intent to join the party and abide by its rules, similar to what Fitial did when he sent a letter to the party on Wednesday.

"After years of public service to our people and community in the Northern Mariana Islands with most of these years as a loyal member and leader of the NMI Republican Party, I hereby submit this letter of intention to once again join the political party I helped organize. I am a Republican and I will faithfully and vigorously support the principles of the Republican Party and abide by its rules," Fitial told Tenorio in a one-page letter that the party accepted.

Of the six members of Reyes's Executive Committee, five voted in favor of, while one opposed, Fitial's readmission to the Republican Party.

Besides Reyes who is the chairman, the other officers and members of the Executive Committee include: Tom Tebuteb as vice chair, Lilian Bennett as secretary, Luis Kapileo, Arnold Palacios, and Danny Aquino.

"We voted to have the governor admitted to the Republican Party. Five approved it, one disapproved it," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview in the lobby of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

Upstairs, the governor and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos were meeting with mem-

bers of the Legislature. (*See full story*)

Fitial, in an interview after meeting with lawmakers yesterday, said he "feel(s) good" about the Republican Party decision.

"Now I can be a proud Republican governor," he said, adding that he formed the Covenant Party to support his gubernatorial bid.

'Merger is end goal'

But when told about Tenorio's statement that the decision was not for the merger of the two parties, Fitial said "but eventually the plan is to bring the Covenant to be part of the Republican Party."

He said he is a lifetime member of the National Republican Committee and pays his annual dues of \$2,000.

But incumbent Republicans have reservations about the governor rejoining the party he abandoned. Nevertheless, they said every registered CNMI voter is welcome to join or rejoin the party if and when they accept to abide by the party's rules.

Fitial said the Covenant Party remains in existence until its merger with the Republican Party. He said he looks forward to the Republican Party's general membership meeting in February, when a merger could be decided on.

Reyes said the committee weighed all the pros and cons of accepting Fitial back to the party he helped organize before voting.

He said he as a committee officer believes that given these tough financial times, the CNMI needs all the help it can get to get the islands out of crisis, and this includes tapping Republican members of Congress.

"Fitial wants to take advantage of a

GOP-controlled U.S. Congress, knowing our economic situation is very bad. Fitial has lots of contacts and friends in Washington, D.C. that will help the CNMI," Reyes said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who was sworn into office on Wednesday for a second two-year term, is caucusing with the Democrats in Congress. Sablan said he has reached across both sides of the aisle in Congress—the Democrats and the Republicans.

Most Covenant Party members are former Republicans.

The governor said he can only encourage but not force Covenant Party members to also go back or join the Republican Party.

The governor said he will also urge his Cabinet members, who he was scheduled to host at a private party at his private residence in Gualo Rai last night.

Membership drive

GOP's Tenorio said the party officials called for the formation of the ad-hoc Executive Committee to "to take care of the membership drive." This is separate from other committees such as finance and credentials committees.

"This is timely, in preparation for the 2010 midterm elections," Tenorio said.

Reyes said the committee or the Republican Party cannot impose additional conditions on Fitial just because he is the governor. He said other individuals wanting to be part of the party have the same requirements imposed on Fitial.

"As chairman of the committee, now is the time to set aside differences between the Executive and Legislative Branch and others, and find the best solutions to economic problems," he said.

The governor said he's happy that he and lawmakers were able to sit down and freely discuss issues that confront the CNMI and ways to address them.

"I told everybody that the whole world is moving forward, but the CNMI is the only one moving backward, so the only way to move forward is to get everybody together," he said.

He also said that there's "renewed trust among elected officials."

The governor said his newly created task force on federal grant assessment is now looking into the lapsed federal grants that could be redirected to other programs. He said he will be awaiting the recommendations of the task force, chaired by Inos.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the House minority bloc also distributed copies of its proposed agenda. Many of the items on the House minority agenda are also associated with the items on Fitial and Inos' meeting agenda.

Besides rebuilding tourism, the official meeting agenda also included issues on the military buildup, revisiting the pozzolan mining, federal relations, legislative reform, and expenditure control and revenue enhancement.

Manglona said a full leadership meeting will be called again on Friday next week.

HOPES

From Page 1

said he, Inos and the Legislature "accomplished a lot of consensus," as well as agreed on pushing for legislative reforms, and on "how to cure the austerity problem."

He, however, declined to give specific plans how to move the CNMI economy forward or avert payless paydays and address the cash shortfall.

"We prefer not to cite anything specific. These are all plans that we'll be working on, but the basic premise here is to solve the problem we are encountering with the payroll," he told reporters.

Others who were at the meeting said one of the options being looked at to address budget shortfall and avert further payless paydays is by reprogramming of funds from other programs similar to a landmark law last year that gave the governor authority to reprogram up to \$10 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 for payrolls.

One of the more specific plans that Fitial mentioned is his administration's submission to the Legislature next week of a proposed legislation that will appropriate \$6.2 million or portion of

it to the Marianas Visitors Authority to implement its airline incentive program.

Under the tourism campaign, MVA will provide "monetary incentive" to travel agents for every passenger from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya that they will be able to bring to Saipan during so-called low peak periods.

He said the maximum cash incentive to travel agents will be \$100 per passenger.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a brief interview when he got out of the meeting room, said most of the \$6.2 million for the program may be taken from the hotel occupancy tax.

House minority leader Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Managaha landing fee may also be tapped for the MVA campaign.

"The MVA program is a worthwhile investment... We're looking at 60,000 additional tourists. What it would do is stabilize air services to these two cities — Osaka and Nagoya during Death Valley periods," Benavente said.

In the absence of the House speaker, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan) led the House members at the meeting.

HOYER

From Page 1

111th Congresses, which worked well without legal controversy. The Republican rules package for the 112th Congress revoked that privilege.

"It is absolutely unacceptable to deny nearly five million Americans a voice in Congress," said Democratic Whip Hoyer. "Republicans continually declare they are focused on listening to the American people. With this rules change, they are ignoring the voices of five million American citizens. We can listen to our people by continuing the constitutionally sound policy of the last two Congresses, which gave delegates and the resident commissioner a vote in the Committee of the Whole House. I hope Republicans work with us to reinstate this fair and common sense policy, rather than disenfranchising millions of citizens."

Hoyer's introduction earned praise from the five delegates and the resident commissioner directly affected by the rule change.

"On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands I want to thank Mr. Hoyer. Not only has he introduced legislation today that would restore the voice of Americans living in non-state areas of our country, when bills are debated in the U.S. House of Representatives. But he also was a very strong voice himself yesterday during debate on the rules package that took away our vote in Committee of the Whole House," said CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.

"Although this vote is ultimately symbolic—because the House can revoke on an issue once it leaves the Committee of the Whole—it is an important symbol. Because the laws that Congress passes apply in the Northern Marianas and the other non-state areas. And it is in keeping with the spirit of American democracy that all citizens should have a say in their government no matter where they live," added Sablan.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo said the Republican rules package makes the House less transparent and

less responsive to the American people.

"By obligating the delegates to take public stands, our limited vote showed our constituents where we stood on important issues and helped ensure that legislation under consideration took their welfare into account," she said.

Both District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen also applauded Hoyer's introduction of the resolution.

"We are cheered by the leadership of Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer and the solid support the delegates received in the first recorded House vote of the new Congress, recognizing our rights to represent our citizens with a court-sanctioned vote on the House floor. Stripping from us the only vote we have ever had was particularly heart-breaking for the District of Columbia, which barely missed getting full House voting rights last year. Our residents will always stand in solidarity with other delegates serving in the House, who insist on each and every right to which we are entitled," said Norton.

"I applaud the leadership of the Minority Whip and thank him for his support for the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. His support on opening day and his introduction of this legislation gives hope to Americans living in the territories that their voices do count," said Christensen.

American Samoa Delegate Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, meanwhile, reminded House Republicans that his constituents are also Americans.

"Our constituents are part of the American family They fight and die in disproportionate numbers in defense of our nation. The Republican rules package—by depriving us of our symbolic vote—dishonors their service and means their sacrifice," he said.

Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Pedro R. Pierluisi said he represent nearly four million U.S. citizens and that number is "far more than any other member of this chamber. By depriving my colleagues and me of our limited vote, the Republican package sends a clear message to our constituents: You don't deserve to be heard. You don't count. And you don't matter." (*PR*)

Nearly 200 attend NMC information session

Nearly 200 individuals attended the Northern Marianas College information session held on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in Room D-1 at the NMC As Terlaje campus. This is one of the highest turnouts the college has had for an information session.

Registration for upcoming Spring 2011 semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, and will continue until Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011. For additional information, visit www.nmcnet.edu.

The free information session began with opening remarks from NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. The event featured presentations from staff members and students from the various offices of the Student Services division,

which include Financial Aid, Counseling Disability and Support, and the Office of Admissions and Records.

NMC Financial Aid officer Daisy Manglona-Propst spoke to participants about different scholarship opportunities available to students, such as the federal Pell grant, CNMI Scholarship, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, and the College Access Challenge Project Scholarship.

Other presentations include the benefits of attending NMC, as well as the various degree and certificate programs at the college. Floyd Masga, Liaison Officer for the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, also provided information on the educational



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College student Amber Mendiola, standing center, speaks to nearly 200 individuals about her experience at NMC during the recent information session held on Jan. 5, 2011.

AFTER ENFORCEMENT OF MPAS

Indigenous Guam fishermen risk of drowning more than doubles

HONOLULU—For fishermen on Guam who have traditionally fished inshore, a major concern is the loss of accessible fishing grounds caused in part by the establishment of five marine preserve areas (MPAs) in 1997.

Fishermen have reported that the MPAs have displaced them from traditional fishing grounds, prevent them from teaching fishing techniques in a safe environment to the younger generation and impact the future of their local culture.

Now a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), provides concrete evidence on how dangerous fishing has become for the indigenous Chamorro fishermen since fishing restrictions in the MPAs at Tumon Bay, Piti Bomb Holes, Sasa Bay, Achang Reef Flat and Pati Point have been enforced.

"The major finding of the study was that, for Chamorro fishermen, the risk of drowning more than doubled after MPAs were enforced in 2001," note authors Devin L. Lucas, and Jennifer M. Lincoln, PhD. On the other hand, non-Chamorro fishermen experienced a sharp decrease in the risk of drowning after MPAs were established.

The NIOSH report "The Impact of Marine Preserve Areas on the Safety of Fishermen on Guam" also found that the proportion of drowning deaths to Chamorro fishermen that occurred on the East Coast (in more hazardous waters) increased from 20 percent during 1986-

2000 to 63 percent during 2001-2009.

The report concludes: "Before the MPAs were established, Guam residents fished primarily in the protected areas of the Western (leeward side) and Southern Coasts. Non-Chamorro fishermen were predominately recreational users, while Chamorro fishermen were more likely to subsist on the resource. As MPAs were established and enforced, the traditional and popular fishing grounds on the West Coast and Southern tip of the island were restricted. Non-Chamorro recreational fishermen most likely scaled back their fishing activities since few accessible, safe areas remained open. At the same time, Chamorro subsistence fishermen began fishing more heavily on the East Coast (windward side of the island). ... That increased exposure to more hazardous conditions resulted in higher risk of drowning."

For a copy of the report, which was prepared by the NIOSH for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, please go to www.wpcouncil.org/new. For more on Guam's MPAs, go to <http://www.guamdw.org/aquatics/mpa>.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was created by Congress in 1976 and is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to manage fisheries in federal waters surrounding Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Pacific remote island areas. (PR)

benefits and career opportunities in the military for those who wish to participate in the SROTC program.

NMC admissions specialist Marissa Seidler of the Office of Admissions and Records also informed participants of

requirements needed to apply to NMC. In addition, NMC international counselor Ni Deleon Guerrero addressed concerns regarding applying to NMC as an international student.

The event also featured student speakers Joanna Palero and Am-

ber Mendiola. Palero's speech focused on her experience with securing financial aid for college, while Mendiola shared with participants her overall experience attending NMC.

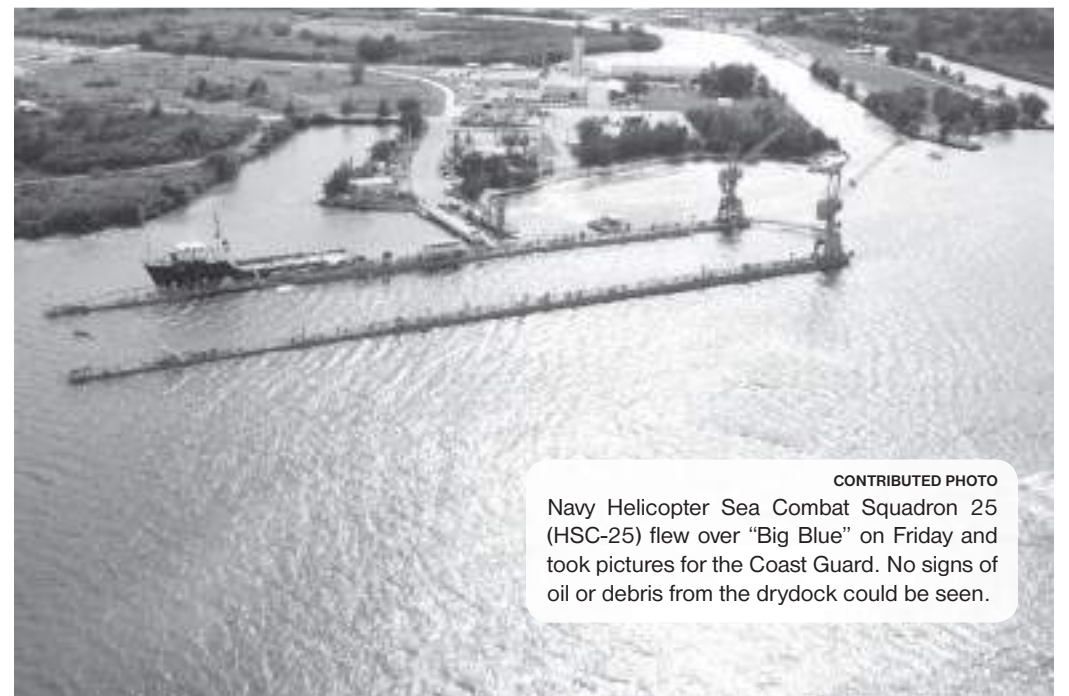
After the presentations, participants were able to meet and

have their questions answered by faculty, staff, and students from the various programs and offices. Information session participants also qualified for fee waivers for the Spring 2011 semester, which includes the NMC application fee and placement test fees.

'Big Blue' fuel recovery continues

APRA HARBOR, Guam—As of Friday afternoon Guam Shipyard successfully transferred approximately 11,000 gallons of diesel fuel onto the tug *Marianas Voyager*, emptying the diesel fuel tank aboard "Big Blue" ahead of schedule. To date this tank is the largest known quantity of fuel aboard "Big Blue."

With the diesel fuel removed from "Big Blue," Guam Shipyard is now moving forward with plans to remove oily waste water from the machinery space that is still submerged. Guam Shipyard has purchased five new pumps today in a determined effort to increase their ability to remove more water from the drydock. The Coast Guard and Guam Shipyard continue to work closely on recovery efforts ensuring safety for all involved remains the number



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25) flew over "Big Blue" on Friday and took pictures for the Coast Guard. No signs of oil or debris from the drydock could be seen.

one priority.

The Pacific Strike Team, a Coast Guard group of highly trained members who specialize in incident management and rapid response to these types of events, continues to assist Coast Guard Sector Guam and Guam Shipyard with the safe removal

of the remaining oily water and waste products. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25) was also on scene today to take aerial photos of "Big Blue" and the surrounding area. No signs of oil in the water or hazards to navigation have been reported at this time.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam continues to urge all commercial and recreational boating traffic to remain vigilant while transiting near "Big Blue." To report any debris or signs of oil in the water call the Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. (PR)



ENSIGN RUSSELL, U.S. COAST GUARD

Coast Guard personnel went back onboard the "Big Blue drydock" Thursday, surveying water levels of the still submerged lower decks.



ENSIGN RUSSELL, U.S. COAST GUARD

Dewatering operations continued as the tugboat *Marianas Voyager* is tied up alongside "Big Blue" to begin transferring fuel from the diesel fuel tank.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Open the door, Mr. President

As the first painful anniversary of Haiti's earthquake approaches, recovery efforts are mired in a dysfunctional government, a cholera outbreak not of that nation's making and a flawed election that has left Haitians understandably angry and frustrated.

The international community—from the United Nations to the Organization of American States, and, of course, the United States—is attempting to resolve the political impasse in the recent elections.

Health officials from around the world are helping Haitians fight the cholera killer likely brought from abroad.

But only the Obama administration can help Haitians help themselves by allowing the 55,000 Haitians who have approved U.S. visas from before the quake to join their families here.

Incredibly, the Department of Homeland Security hasn't bothered to do right by those 55,000 Haitians.

Instead, Homeland Security is poised to send back undocumented Haitians to a country that's stressed beyond most people's imaginations and seems to be shutting the door on 55,000 legal—we repeat legal—immigrants whose families have promised to support them until they can find work.

Meantime, U.S. officials are opening another door to the Cuban spouses and minor children of legal Cuban immigrants here after a months-long delay that had put in jeopardy U.S. assistance to 3,200 Cuban migrants.

Why the double standard?

The 55,000 Haitians could work here legally and help their families or friends in Haiti, which would only improve the dismal life of those loved ones they left behind. In fact, without remittances, Haiti would be in much worse shape. In 2009, Haitians in the United States sent more than \$1.5 billion to relatives there.

This delay is unnecessary and destructive. The 55,000 have been vetted by U.S. immigration officials. They are approved to go, but it could take four to 11 years to get them here because of a U.S. backlog of approved visa-holders.

Clearly, Haitians should be at the front of that line.

Their country has crumbled, and with the help of family in America they can become productive here while helping Haiti's economy through remittances, which would aid Haitians start businesses there once the rebuilding is at full steam.

There are thousands more Haitians waiting for visa approvals whose cases merit expedited approval, too.

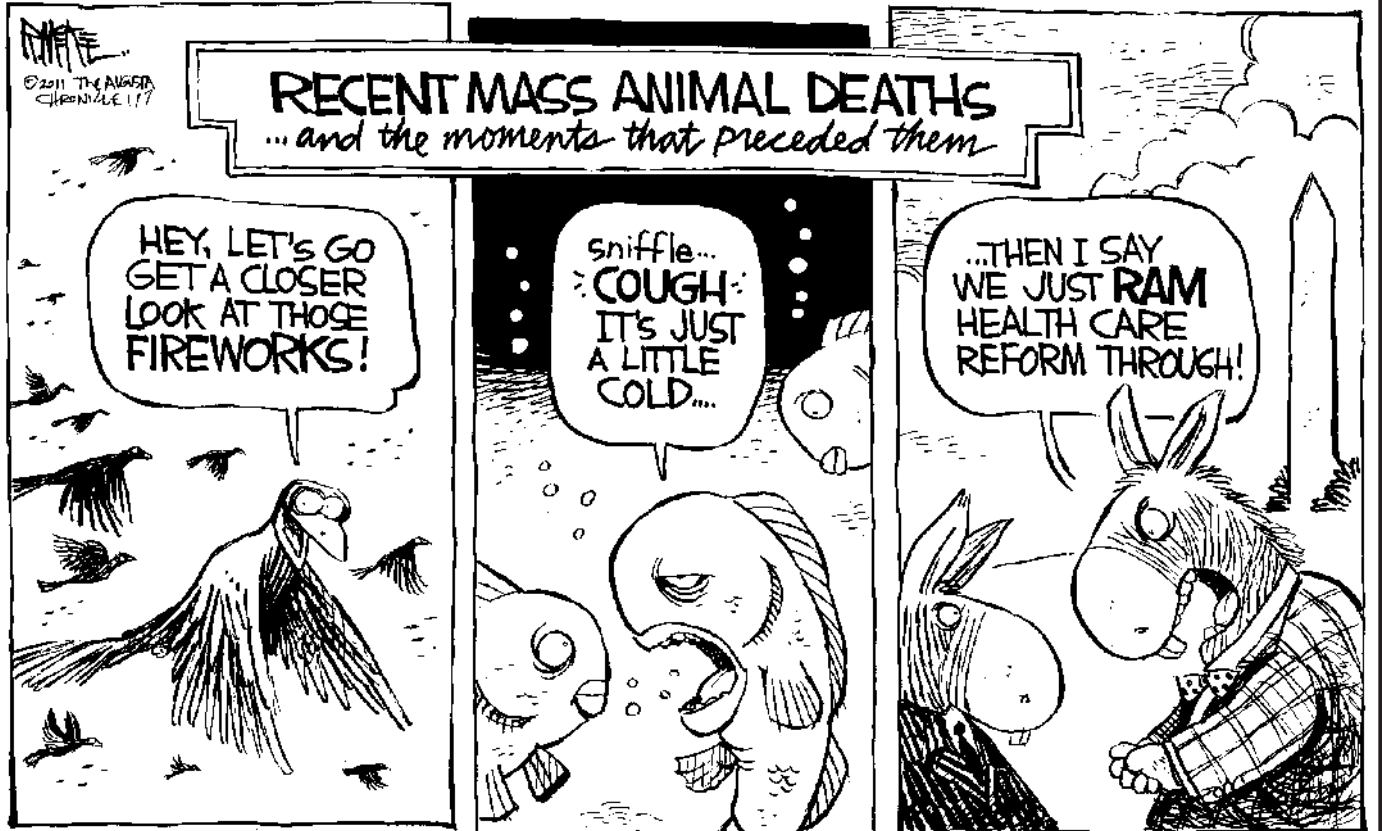
Lifting the quota system for Haitians because of extraordinary circumstances would be the humanitarian thing to do, requiring no special act of Congress because the 55,000 already have approved visas.

For months, immigration activists have been talking with White House officials to nudge Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to sign off on expediting those 55,000 approved visas. Still, nothing.

The United States has a long history of helping refugees facing chaos in their homelands. Haitians surely qualify. To condemn legal immigrants to more time in tent cities, with the potential of a cholera epidemic and more political unrest, is shameful.

America cannot take care of every person in the world facing catastrophe, but in this case there is no other moral option. They're legal—let them in.

(c) 2011, The Miami Herald



The real blasphemy

In June 2009 in Punjab, Pakistan, Asia Bibi, a mother of five and a farmhand, was asked to fetch water. She complied, but some of her Muslim co-workers refused to drink the water, as Bibi is a Christian and considered "unclean" by them. Arguments ensued, resulting in some co-workers complaining to a local cleric's wife that Bibi had made derogatory comments about the prophet Muhammad. A mob reportedly stormed her house, assaulting Bibi and her family.

However, the police initiated an investigation of Bibi, not her attackers. She was arrested and prosecuted for blasphemy, under Section 295C of the Pakistan Penal Code. She spent more than a year in jail. On Nov. 8, she was sentenced to death by hanging; she has since filed an appeal.

There is a need for broad legal and social reforms in Pakistan, and it can start with the repeal of this law. But the assassination Monday of Salmaan Taseer, the governor of Punjab, by one of his official security guards shows how difficult that will be. The alleged assailant reportedly gave a statement after his arrest expressing no remorse as he was ostensibly "protecting Allah's religion." Taseer was perhaps Pakistan's most brave, vocal and liberal statesman. He had met with Bibi in prison and subsequently lent his support to the campaign calling for the repeal of the blasphemy law.

Section 295C was introduced into the Pakistani legal system in the 1980s by the military dictator Gen. Zia ul-Haq as part of his broader effort to Islamize laws in Pakistan. It stipulates that "derogatory remarks, etc., in respect of the Holy Prophet ... either spoken or written, or by visible representation, or by any imputation, innuendo or insinuation, directly or indirectly ... shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine."

Bibi is far from the first person from a minority community in Pakistan to be sentenced to death for blasphemy. Although no person has yet been executed under the blasphemy law, at least 32 people have been killed while awaiting trial or after they have been acquitted of blasphemy charges. In 2009, 40 houses and a church were set ablaze by a mob of 1,000 Muslims in the town of Gojra, Punjab. At least seven Christians were burned alive. The attacks were triggered by reports of desecration of the Koran. The local police had already registered a case under Section 295C against three Christians for blasphemy. Hence a conviction or even an accusation under this law is often a death sentence.

The blasphemy provisions were an important component of a social engineering campaign devised and implemented by Zia during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. The ostensible objective was to Islamize the Pakistani state. But the goal was also to tailor the social and legal system of the country to aid the mujahedin

By SAROOP IJAZ
Los Angeles Times

Saroop Ijaz is a lawyer and human rights activist based in Lahore, Pakistan. This was written for the Los Angeles Times.



(loosely, the contemporary Pakistani Taliban) by making them appear to be indigenous freedom fighters.

The infamous discriminatory Hudood Ordinance, supposedly based on the Quran, was put into effect. It sought to charge women who were raped with adultery if they could not bring forth four pious male Muslims who were witnesses to the rape. Zia also undemocratically amended the constitution to implement Sharia, or Islamic law. The school curriculum was modified to make it more Islamic. Female television anchors were ordered to cover their heads on the air; heavy censorship was exercised on the print and electronic media to safeguard the glory of Islam.

But it is not only Pakistan that has been adversely affected.

Zia's Islamization efforts played a significant role in today's global war on terrorism because of his social engineering, aimed to deliberately introduce ethno-centrism and intolerance into the moral fabric of Pakistani society. This, in turn, aided in the rise of the Taliban in the region, particularly the Pakistani Taliban.

It is almost an accepted fact now that the war on terrorism, both globally and in Pakistan, cannot be won by military might alone. Stopping al-Qaeda is still important, but the Taliban has become the top priority. We must isolate the Taliban, and not only geographically. It must also be stripped of all moral authority and public sympathy. That is hard to achieve with provisions like the blasphemy law in place. Institutionalized biases influence human behavior.

Legal and social reforms in Pakistan are imperative not only to save many like Asia Bibi but to provide a long-term, sustainable solution to the growing threat of extremism inside and outside Pakistan.

Pakistan and its democracy are in a state of ethical and political uncertainty, and the coalition government is too fragile to address the crisis without internal and external help. A tolerant and secular Pakistan is crucial for eradication of global Islamic fundamentalism. And the international community is well placed to demand change, given Pakistan's extraordinary reliance on foreign support.

Bibi needs to be saved, and the laws perpetuating these barbaric practices need to be repealed.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wintry mornings

Either the sinews of my bones have gotten more taut or the morrows have gotten dry, but mornings these days since we turned into year 11 in the millennium feels like the lurking sun had taken lady winter for a bride. Br-r-r-r, the crack of dawn suddenly draws the blanket to the chin.

With birds mysteriously dropping out of the skies in Arkansas and fish floating in its rivers en masse with lame explanations that both have been under extreme environmental stress and survival pressures (birds encountered fireworks that were manufactured, guess where, in China), one gets the feeling that something is terribly a-kilter.

We do not intend to be ecological alarmist though climate change is already an undisputed fact, save to the fanatically disoriented. One of the remaining pleasures of living in the Marianas is the glorious weather except that our mornings might have taken a turn at nippier than normal. Disregarding the fashion conscious, we see more pullover wearers these days than usual. For now, we will ignore the silent springs of Tanapag and Lower Base regarding the environment; and affirm that 14 degrees above the equator is just the right place to be.

Now, we are not just out to shoot the breeze on the weather here, are we? You're right. Our hacking is set at the level of the cool political relationships that continue to populate our daily editorial and opinion pages, broadcast, print and blog.

The blame game on the Feds continues, which is OK since Washington has played the flogged role for so long, the draped red-white-and-blue by the Potomac seems to have gotten unassailably inured to it. The sharp dichotomy between constitutional rights and States' rights goes back to the founding fathers, so we are not surprised at the on-going contradiction and confrontation between the local and the national, with the federal keeping the steady hand while the local trashes in restless abandon. Besides, half of the federal budget pays for defense and the military, with a tenth of indebtedness on China, so as they say in TexMex, no hay problema, primo! Zhong Guo is

not about to collect, nor the Feds restrained from printing additional currency to inflate the economy. The Commonwealth and the rest of the federation will just have to make do with what they have.

Present reality sees the local being global not just in inner experience but also at the outer rims of the grocery store level. Ever noticed the ties that connect our dependencies? Aside from the bulk of our consumer goods manufactured in China, everything else requires the United Nations to effect delivery of goods and services into our homes and waking hours.

I traveled through Samoa, Tonga, Nauru, Pohnpei, Truk (Chuuk), and Guam in the early '80s while living in the Marshall Islands. Tonga at the time worried that there were six south Asian Indians in Nuku'alofa when they only allowed six; the same went with Filipinos. Chinese were definitely not allowed to stay. The alarming takeover of the Filipinos and Chinese in Nauru where the locals have either migrated to Melbourne, Honolulu, or Los Angeles, and the clerical and service jobs went to the Pinoys, the retailing and finance were taken over by the Chinese, was not lost to the locals. (Nor the stalemate between locals and those of Indian descent in Fiji ignored.) But the Filipinos spoke English and intermarried with the locals; the Chinese kept to themselves. Playing off Taiwan v. Beijing, it did not take long before Pacific Island nations were issuing national passports to ethnic Chinese from varying locations. Fujian Chinese were known to be charging a minimum of \$30K for the passport privilege that took folks to former industrialized colonizers.

Absence of a public transport system in Saipan, the taxi service has been taken over by south Asian workers; the informal economy has its own system that has been recently implicated in licensing matters. Without the protection of law enforcement personnel and staff of regulatory offices, none of the systems in place would flourish, and as far as we can decipher, the stranglehold on those connection is tied to the ease by which "ice" is trafficked in the Commonwealth. The high incidence of use,

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



its popularity among the despondent and the despairing, and the number of "unemployed" workers engaged in its distribution are clear indication that for survival, an underground and mostly illicit economy is in place. Crime against private property has quadrupled; 24-hour pawnshops and the numerous outlets for games of chance only exacerbate the situation of those trying to swing the winds of fortune into the plus side.

Yet, we insist on looking for someone to blame, preferably those of different political persuasion, and conveniently, on those foreigners who have abused the privileges of their stay, as if our hands were clean over the exorbitant charges these foreigner's paid to be here in the first place. We won't even go into the practice of having foreign nationals travel as tourists to our shores to deliver their children here!

The inimitable Woody Allen is quoted as saying: More than anytime in history, umankind faces a crossroad. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness, the other to total extinction. Let us pray that we have the wisdom to choose correctly.

There is no shortage of prophets of doom and gloom. When public officials cannot even be cordial to each other, let alone cooperate and collaborate, there shall not be warmth on cold wintry mornings, either. Our problematic "ice: is not the thawing kind, but warming up the channels between the Governor's and the Washington Rep's offices would be a fresh wind blowing in the right direction.

One possibility for Haiti's future? Children dying

If you've never seen a child die, consider yourself very lucky. A few years ago I sat with a 19-year-old mother watching her daughter in a fast, agonized decline. The small hospital lacked the needed medicines to help. For hours the child battled for every single breath, then lost the fight. Suddenly, she was limp, gray ... gone. All hope and possibility for an entire life suspended in that last, unfinished breath.

As the one-year anniversary of the Haiti earthquake looms, so does the inevitable question: Should we continue to provide aid to a country that cannot seem to shake political turmoil and bad news?

But this is beside the point. The only real question right now is: What would happen if we did stop helping Haiti's people? The answer is very simple. Children would become sick, and children would die.

I'm certainly not saying there shouldn't be an examination of whether enough—or the right kind of—aid is being deployed. Aid organizations must take a long hard look at what works and what doesn't—build on successes and learn from mistakes. There have been plenty of both in Haiti.

But there has also been significant progress. As an advocate for children, my job would be easier if there were a way to show each child who has been saved by the work in Haiti. If only I had a photo album the size of a conference table filled with snapshots of kids who are playing, running, making faces for the camera. I could

flip through it and say, "Here's a boy who would have succumbed to disease, this girl would have died of dehydration, and here are 20,000 more ..."

But we tend to discuss Haiti as if it's some abstract entity—a small dot on a world map. I've heard people say, "That's it, I'm not giving any more money to Haiti," as though the country itself raises one massive hand and pockets the funds. In fact, donations are crucial to programs that are, every single day, saving the lives of human beings. Clean drinking water, medicines, immunizations, nutrition, orphanage support. Millions of Haitians have received such lifesaving interventions in the last year, thanks in large part to the generosity of the American people. Halting these interventions would be as unthinkable as quietly shutting off life support to an accident victim who has an excellent chance of pulling through, but no health insurance.

On a recent trip to Haiti, I visited a newly built school where I was amazed to see a class of girls file in wearing uniforms, their white shirts as crisp and bright as any Wall Street banker's. When I asked the students how many of them still lived in tents, half the girls raised their hands. I asked how many walked an hour or more to get to the school—again, more than half the hands went up.

A girl who had raised her hand to both questions explained that she needed to be in school—school was bringing a sense of normality back to her life. Like so many children I've met in Haiti, she is

By **CARYL STERN**

MCT

Caryl Stern is president and CEO of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, N.Y. 10038; website: www.unicefusa.org.



passionate about her education so she can help both herself and her country in the future.

But that uniform—how did she manage to keep it so pressed and clean? She told me that every day after the long walk back to her tent, she washes the shirt in her bucket, hand-wrings it dry, flattens and folds it "just so," and places it beneath the mattress of her cot so the weight of her body ensures it will be creaseless the next day.

So much had been taken from that girl by the earthquake. Home, family, possessions. Here she was, getting on with her life with a determination, dignity and hope that would be remarkable but for the fact that, in Haiti, it is not. If there is an unspoken compact between those who give aid and those who receive it, Haiti's children are certainly keeping up their end of the bargain. Those children won't give up. How could we possibly consider doing so?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

One of three holidays ruined

As I boldly predicted, the day after Thanksgiving, tax return checks would not be issued by the Fitial administration before Christmas.

Christmas in my house, like so many others, was cancelled. Alexis and I had a can of Spam, bowl of rice, and another can of corn for the entire meal. For a tree, we turned a broom upside down and hung coconut fibers.

There were no presents to be given. Well, I can say, when the Fitial administration messes up, the Fitial administration really messes up. There is only two holidays left that they can crush and destroy for my sweet little angel faced darling: Easter and the Fourth of July. I'm sure this administration will find a way to ruin both of them.

Now I hear some people received their checks. Alexis heard this

and has been running, disappointedly, to the post office as mine didn't come. In 45 more days I'll be filing my taxes again. The hole for the CNMI keeps getting deeper and they will not be able to shovel their way out of it.

Alexis went as far as contacting a collection agency to get the tax return. The agency had to tell her they couldn't do it. So I'm proposing that the governor, if he really cares about the people of the CNMI, release all outstanding checks today with the interest according to CNMI law.

If not, then this summer I will be asking the good, hardworking, God fearing residents of the CNMI to recall him because he cannot man up to do this simple task, allows children to suf-

fer and, most of all, do his job.

Furthermore, he wants to join the Republican Party! That would be like asking the right Rev. Jim Jones to be a spokesman for Kool Aid. It doesn't work. Don't do it Republican Party...this man cannot manage to send out a tax return check, you will lose tens of thousands of votes because the good name of The Party of Lincoln will be stained forever more.

Recall Fitial I say. The sooner he is out of office, the better it will be for the CNMI.






Keith Brooks

Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

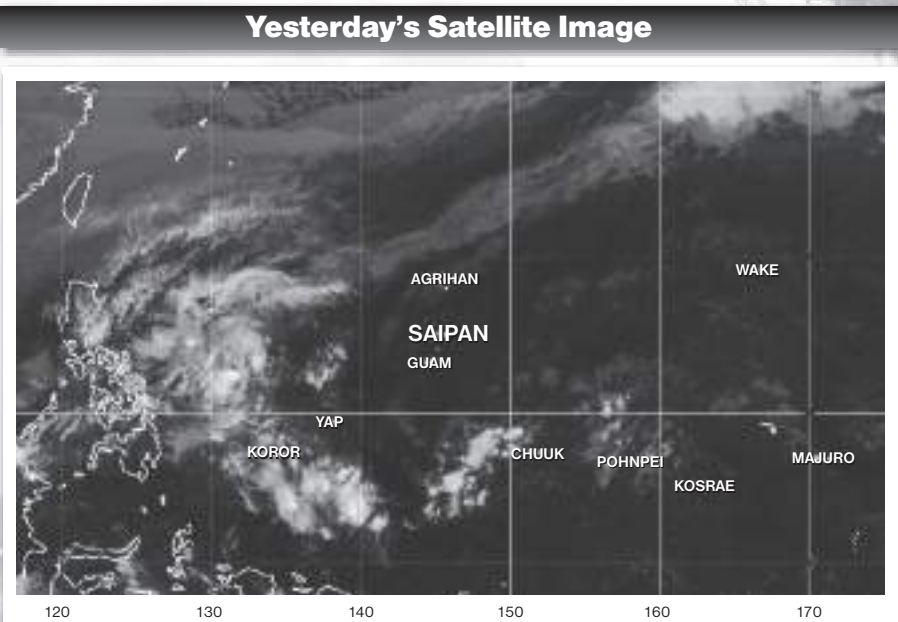
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲87 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲27 ▼12
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲66 ▼44
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼68
London	Showers	▲49 ▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼44
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲75 ▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲75 ▼53
New York	Cloudy	▲33 ▼23
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼34
Paris	Showers	▲51 ▼38
Pusan	Sunny	▲38 ▼21
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼49
Salem	Showers	▲41 ▼33
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲25 ▼11
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼36
Washington, DC	Snow	▲37 ▼25

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends west-southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N175E to 23N160E then continues as an old shear line to end near Pagan at 19N144E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough reaches northeastward from near Mindanao through 11N130E to end just west of the northern CNMI at 19N142E. Divergent upper-level winds are enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the trough axis or north of Koror and Yap within 115 miles of a line from 13N130E to 19N142E. Another surface trough runs northwestward from EQ145E to end southwest of Yap at 7N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough southeast of Koror within 85 miles of a line from 8N136E to 3N139E. Scattered showers are seen southeast of Yap within 85 miles of a line from 7N140E to EQ145E. Two weak trade-wind disturbances are causing widely scattered showers over Chuuk between 5N and 9N from 150E to 155E and over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 155 miles of a line from 11N159E to 4N163E respectively.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM	Today	9:13 AM	9:17 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM	Sunday	9:48 AM	10:04 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM	Monday	10:23 AM	10:50 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM	Tuesday	10:58 AM	11:36 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM	Wednesday	11:35 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010							
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

House Republicans challenge Obama on debt limit

WASHINGTON (AP)—In power scarcely a day, House Republicans bluntly told the White House on Thursday its request to raise the nation's \$14.3 trillion debt limit will require federal spending cuts to win their approval, laying down an early marker in a new era of divided government.

Speaker John Boehner made the challenge as the new GOP majority voted to cut funding for House members' own offices and committee operations by \$35 million. Rank and file Republicans described that vote as a mere down payment on a much more ambitious assault on record federal deficits.

"It's not massive," first-term Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said of Thursday's cut. "But it is monumental."

At a news conference, Boehner, R-Ohio, also said emphatically he was standing by a pre-election pledge to cut government spending by at least \$100 billion this year. "No ifs, ands or buts about it," he said, despite recent comments from other Republicans the total might be overly ambitious.

The Republicans who took control of the House on

Wednesday include dozens of newcomers elected last fall with the support of tea party activists eager for a smaller, less intrusive government. And Thursday's events suggested a bone-jarring struggle could be mere weeks away as conservative lawmakers use the Treasury's need for more borrowing authority to try and extract concessions from President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats.

Obama has spoken favorably but in general terms about a need to reduce federal deficits. An administration official said the White House wants that issue to proceed independently of the debt limit increase.

"The American people will not stand for such an increase unless it is accompanied by meaningful action by the president and Congress to cut spending and end the job-killing spending binge in Washington," Boehner said.

"While America cannot default on its debt, we also cannot continue to borrow recklessly, dig ourselves deeper into this hole, and mortgage the future of our children and grandchildren."

CBO: Health care repeal would increase deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Repealing President Barack Obama's landmark health care overhaul would add billions to government red ink and leave millions without coverage, Congress' nonpartisan budget referees said Thursday ahead of a politically charged vote in the House.

House Speaker John Boehner brushed off the Congressional Budget Office analysis as emboldened Republicans, now in the majority in the House, issued their own report arguing that Obama's coverage expansion would cost jobs and increase budget deficits.

But Democrats seized on the CBO analysis, calling it a game changer in the battle for public opinion.

In a letter to Boehner, budget office director Douglas Elmendorf estimated repeal would increase the deficit by \$230 billion from 2012 to 2021, the 10-year estimating period for budget projections. Moreover, Elmendorf said about 32 million more people would be uninsured in 2019 as a consequence.

But Boehner told reporters: "I do not believe that repealing the job-killing health care law will increase the deficit."

The budget experts are "entitled to their opinion," added Boehner, R-Ohio, saying that

Nation

Meet the new boss: Daley is Obama chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AP)—Overhauling his team at the top, President Barack Obama on Thursday named banker and seasoned political fighter William Daley as his new chief of staff, hoping to rejuvenate both a White House storming into re-election mode and an economy still gasping for help.



President Barack Obama's chief of staff

William M. Daley

Early life

Born 1948, in Chicago

Education Bachelor's degree, Loyola University, law degree, John Marshall Law School

Political family Son of legendary Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley, brother is city's current mayor

Law, business, politics

1974-1989 Private law practice

1989-1993 Vice chairman of the Amalgamated Bank of Chicago, then president and CEO

1993-1997 Partner, Mayer Brown law firm (then Mayer, Brown & Platt); in 1993, served as special counsel to then-President Bill Clinton, coordinating a successful campaign for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

1997-2000 U.S. secretary of commerce

2000 Chairman of Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign

2001-2004 President of SBC Communications

2004-2011 Senior executive for the Midwest region for JP Morgan Chase; currently serves on the board of directors for The Boeing Co., The Art Institute of Chicago, Loyola University and Northwestern University; sits on the Council of Foreign Relations

2011 Appointed chief of staff

© 2011 MCT
Source: Forbes magazine, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

The choice of Daley immediately brought howls of protest from the left flank of the Democratic Party, where advocates questioned his insider ties to Wall Street. Centrists and business leaders rallied around the move, one that underscored just how much and how fast the face of the White House is changing.

Obama, whose hopes for a second term will be shaped largely by how the economy does, immediately linked Daley's appointment to that task. For the most influential staff job in American politics, Obama chose a fellow Chicagoan and former Cabinet secretary who has run both companies and campaigns.

"I'm convinced that he'll help us in our mission of growing our economy," an upbeat Obama said in a White House ceremony as Daley stood to one side. On the other side of the president was Pete Rouse, the interim chief of staff who oversaw a busy three months but did not want to stay in the job.

Said Daley to his new boss: "This team will not let you down, nor the nation."

Rouse, who disdains the spotlight but is considered one of Obama's most essential advisers, choked back some rare public emotion as his colleagues gave him a rousing ovation and the president praised him. He will remain on board for the rest of Obama's current term as counselor to the president, the only one in the building to hold that elevated title.

As the new Republican majority in the House exerts its power, Obama has been resetting his team briskly, with one eye on governing and the

other on getting re-elected. After two long years on the job, on top of two nonstop years of campaigning, some of Obama's most senior advisers are heading out.

The president is losing his press secretary, Robert Gibbs, and his trusted strategist, David Axelrod; he is bringing in former campaign chief David Plouffe as a top staff adviser starting Monday. Yet change only goes so far, as all three of them will end up playing vital roles in Obama's 2012 election campaign, just as they did last time.

On Friday, Obama is expected to name Gene Sperling as his chief economic adviser, who once served for President Bill Clinton—just like Daley.

The chief of staff is the one charged with shaping Obama's time while managing a mammoth juggle of issues, crises, opinions and egos. Few jobs are as consuming.

Daley is known to be deft at deal making and organizing. He offers Obama credibility with the business community, familiarity with the ways of the Cabinet and experience in navigating divided government.

He has never run for office but is the son of a legendary Chicago mayor and the brother of the current one, and he managed Al Gore's campaign for the presidency, right through the bitter and historic recount vote of 2000. He helped Clinton seal the North American Free Trade Agreement and later served as his commerce secretary.

Among his challenges: He has supported Obama but not been personally close to him, and now he must run an operation of the president's loyal staffers.

Pentagon plans to rein in spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time in more than a decade defined by costly wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Pentagon announced plans Thursday to freeze its ballooning budget, forcing the military to shrink the Army and Marines and increase health care premiums for troops and their families.

The Pentagon says it can stop asking for annual budget increases in 2015, adjusting its spending only for inflation. The last time the Pentagon's budget went down was in 1998.

The plan is aimed at helping the nation whittle away at its massive deficit. But the

proposal, which requires \$78 billion in spending cuts and relies on another \$100 billion in cost-saving moves to cover urgent requirements, is tied to two assumptions: that the war in Afghanistan will end on time and that Congress will agree to plans to cancel popular job-making programs and charge retired military families more for health care.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates acknowledged that projections about what the world will look like so far in the future have a troubled track record.

But the Defense Department is "not exempt" from belt-tightening just because of

its charge to defend the nation, he said.

"Looking five years into the future is through a pretty cloudy crystal ball," Gates said. "Any number of these decisions could be reversed."

Although it took Gates more than 30 minutes to read an explanation of the reductions, he called the proposals modest and realistic.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he thinks the Afghanistan war will shrink as planned in 2014, when the United States and its allies want to hand over control of the country's security to the Afghan government.



AP

Jim and Carolyn McCullar, of Ephrata, Wash., are presented with a giant check by Bill Hanson, left, director of the Washington State Lottery, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011, in Olympia, Wash. The McCullars will split the \$380 million Mega Millions prize with another person, who has not yet come forward, who purchased a ticket in Idaho.

Jackpot winner was 'pale, shaking' when he won

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—No, Carolyn, it's not a heart attack. It's a fortune.

The man who bought one of two winning tickets in the \$380 million Mega Millions lottery frightened his wife when he woke her Tuesday night to share the life-changing news.

"I was pale, shaking. She thought I was having a heart attack," retiree Jim McCullar recalled.

When his wife, Carolyn, asked if he was OK, he replied: "I'm perfect."

On Thursday, the couple and their adult children stepped forward to publicly claim one half of the second-largest lottery jackpot in history. Whoever is holding the other winning

ticket, purchased in neighboring Idaho, remained a mystery.

At a news conference in Washington's capital city, the McCullars took hold of the oversized check, marveling at all the zeros in \$190 million. Jim McCullar, 68, then promptly handed it over to his wife, 63.

"We've been married 41 years," he said. "I know what to do with this check."

In Washington, no state taxes would apply. The lump sum payment would be \$90 million after the 25 percent federal tax. The McCullars said they hadn't decided how to take the payment.

In Idaho, the lucky winner has the option of taking a nearly \$81 million lump sum payment after state and federal taxes are with-

held, state lottery officials said.

Jim McCullar, a retired Boeing Co. worker, bought his ticket at a supermarket in Ephrata in eastern Washington, about 125 miles from Post Falls, Idaho, a suburb of Spokane, Wash., where the other ticket was sold.

The winners had to match five numbers plus the "Mega ball." The numbers were 4, 8, 15, 25 and 47, and 42 as the Mega ball.

The McCullars have played some combination of those numbers for years because they're based on the couple's birthdays. It has worked before: Jim McCullar said he won about \$18,000 several years ago playing similar numbers on a keno game in Oregon.

ACROSS THE NATION

Note in fiery Md. package complained of road signs

HANOVER, Md. (AP)—Two packages about the size of small books ignited and released a sulfur-like smell when they were opened Thursday at Maryland state government buildings 20 miles apart, slightly burning the fingers of two employees. One of the parcels was addressed to Gov. Martin O'Malley, who said the mailing meant for him complained about highway signs that urge motorists to report suspicious activity. "Somebody doesn't like seeing that sign," the Democrat said. The fiery devices, one found in Hanover, another in Annapolis, closed mailrooms at government offices across Maryland. A worker unzipped the first package, addressed in typeface to the recently re-elected governor and adorned with holiday stamps, around 12:30 p.m. in Annapolis where mail for O'Malley's office is routinely checked. The building is just blocks from the governor's office, which is inside the State House in the heart of the capital.

Suspect in Arizona mall shooting held on \$1M bond

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)—The suspect police say fired at officers at a mall in Chandler and then held workers at a fast food restaurant hos-

tage now faces a slew of felony charges. Adam Armando Hernandez Jr. surrendered after an hours-long standoff Wednesday and is being held on \$1 million bond. Charges include kidnapping, attempted murder and assault on police officers. Court records released Thursday show a U.S. Marshals Service task was tracking the 27-year-old when he drove to the mall and officers tried to stop him from entering. He reportedly ran inside, through several stores and outside again, where he opened fire on officers and hit one officer's SUV.

Disturbing video shows attacks on disabled victims

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Graphic video footage obtained by the sheriff's department shows several men sexually assaulting at least 10 profoundly disabled women, some of them in diapers, officials said Thursday. The assaults came to light when an unknown man dumped a bundle of 11 DVDs at the Los Angeles County sheriff's station in March. Attached to the videos was a note saying he had pulled them from a computer hard drive that another man had asked him to clean. Some of the assaults were carried out in what appeared to be a residential care facility and one of the suspects seemed himself to be disabled.

Asia

Australian flood victims return to muddy homes

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Evacuated victims began returning to homes caked in sludge on Friday as Australia's flood crisis eased, though one sandbagged town watched nervously as a swollen river level crept higher and forecasters warned of more rain.

Officials said they were moving from the emergency phase into cleanup as flood water levels stabilized in the hard-hit coastal city of Rockhampton and dropped further in towns further inland.

Queensland state has been in the grip of Australia's worst flooding in some 50 years since drenching tropical rains fell for days starting just before Christmas. At its worst, an area the size of France and Germany combined was covered with water, some 40 townships were inundated and nearly 4,000 people evacuated.

Police say 10 people have died in swollen rivers or floodwaters in Queensland since late November.

The flooding shut some 40 coal mines in the state, pushing up global prices, and has hurt wheat, mango, sugarcane and other crops. Road and rail



AP

Australian Federal Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor surveys the flooded Fitzroy River in Rockhampton, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

links have been washed away in many places, and officials warn it could be months before they are restored so industry and other activity can return to normal.

Some of the 150 people of Condamine went home in a convoy on Thursday for the first time since everyone in the small cattle-ranch supply town 190 miles (300 kilometers) west of Brisbane, the state capital, was evacuated on Dec. 30 to escape rising floodwaters.

They found the waters gone, but that 42 of the town's 60

houses had been inundated by the flood.

"It's just flattened everything," said pub owner Shane Hickey. "All the grass is mud, all the plants have been torn out of the ground, the trees have gone over and are just covered in silt and mud."

The town still has no drinking water and officials warned of waterborne disease. Local Mayor Ray Brown said electricians, plumbers, portable toilets and water and food were being brought in for residents returning Friday.

Sightseeing bus crashes in northern India, 22 dead

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—A sightseeing bus overturned and plunged into a gorge, killing 22 Indian tourists and injuring 12 others who were visiting a town at the foot of the Himalayas, officials said Thursday.

Among the 22 killed were 13 children, said Mahendra Singh Tamta, spokesman for Uttarakhand state in northern India. Four of 12 people hospitalized were in serious condition.

The private bus was one of eight hired to take Haridwar city traders on a picnic in Mussoorie, a popular tourist town surrounded by green hills and snowy mountains about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the state capital, Dehradun.

The bus was carrying 52 people back to Haridwar late Wednesday when it flipped over at a curve in the road and rolled down the gorge, landing upside down, Tamta said.

Using ropes and a ladder, local villagers and government rescue officials climbed down into the gorge, where they worked for hours to bring up the injured and dead.

The driver fled the scene but was arrested Thursday, Tamta said. A witness said passengers had asked the driver to slow down before the crash, he said.

Shops in Haridwar were closed Thursday as the city mourned the dead.

Uttarakhand Chief Minis-

ter Ramesh Pokheriyal visited the injured at Dehradun's hospital and pledged to give each 50,000 rupees (\$1,000). He said the families of those killed would receive twice that amount.

Mussoorie, also known as Queen of the Hills, sits at an altitude of 6,170 feet (1,880 meters).

India, the second most populous nation, has the world's highest annual road death toll, according to the World Health Organization.

More than 110,000 people die each year across the country in crashes caused by speeding, bad roads, overcrowding and poor vehicle maintenance, according to police.

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Kenichiro Sasae for about 30 minutes Friday. He arrived in Tokyo after holding similar talks this week with officials in Beijing and Seoul, South Korea. Meanwhile, Sasae's boss, Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara, met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Washington Thursday.

Vietnam media: US diplomat shoved local official

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's state-controlled media are accusing an American diplomat of creating a public disturbance during an incident in which he was reportedly roughed up by Vietnamese police for attempting to visit a prominent dissident. The U.S. says it has filed a strong protest over the incident Wednesday in the central city of Hue. The Thanh Nien newspaper on Friday quoted unidentified witnesses as saying U.S. Embassy political officer Christian Marchant shouted curses in English and Vietnamese, shoved a local official and punched another person in the face.

World

Mexican police arrest 2 in Tijuana beheading

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Two purported drug dealers were arrested Thursday on suspicion of decapitating a man who owed them money and hanging his severed head from a bridge in the border city of Tijuana.

Baja California state prosecutor Fermin Gomez said the suspects, Joel Barriga and Alfredo Avila, were captured with seven assault rifles and acknowledged killing the victim.

Ramses Mendoza, 30, was reported missing last week. His bullet-ridden head was found dangling from a bridge Monday, fastened with nylon rope and a metal ring.

Also Thursday, two men were found shot to death in the trunk of a car parked outside the General Hospital in Tijuana. Their hands and feet were bound and their bodies bore signs of torture, according to a state police report.

Gunmen later attacked three men driving past a shopping mall, killing one and wounding the other two.

Cartel-style violence largely abated in Tijuana after the January 2010 capture of Teodoro "El Teo" Garcia Simental, one of two reputed crime bosses allegedly caught up in a bloody turf war in the city across from San Diego.

But Tijuana has seen a series of beheadings, bridge hangings and shootings since President Felipe Calderon visited in October and touted the city as a success story in his four-year-old drug war.

Still, violence remains below levels in 2008, when the turf war reached its peak, and Tijuana is calmer than Mexican cities along the northeastern border.

On Thursday, Calderon told local media that, while 2010 has been the most violent since he took office, homicides in

Mexico began to decline in the last weeks of the year, from their height at midyear.

"The wave has crested," Calderon said.

In the northeastern city of Monterrey, gunmen sprayed a prison Thursday with machine gun fire and hurled at least one grenade that failed to explode. Nobody was injured.

Jorge Domene, a security spokesman for the government of Nuevo Leon state, where Monterrey is located, said the attack was apparently not an attempt to free inmates from the Topo Chico prison, but rather designed to intimidate authorities.

Also Thursday, gunmen shot to death the police chief of the town of Taretan, in western Michoacan state.

Police chief Francisco Aparicio Mendez was driving with his wife and children on a highway when assailants in another vehicle forced him to stop.

Egypt Christians mark mournful Christmas Eve Mass

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Christians packed churches Thursday for mournful Christmas Eve Masses, weeping and donning black in place of colorful holiday clothes, under a heavy security cordon by police out of fear of another attack like the New Year's suicide bombing of a church that killed 21 people.

At church gates around the country, police and church staff checked the IDs of those entering the services—and their wrists, where many Egyptian Christians bear the tattoo of a cross.

Al-Qaida in Iraq had threatened Christians in Iraq and Egypt in the weeks leading up to the holidays and Saturday's

deadly bombing. Militant websites have even posted names and addresses of churches in Egypt to target, raising fears of a follow-up attack on celebrations of the Orthodox Christmas, which Egypt's Coptic Christian minority marks on Friday.

Still, turnout was heavy, as Christians said they were determined to attend. Muslims also joined some services as a show of solidarity, getting permission from church officials ahead of time to get through police limiting access to Christians.

The two faiths were struggling to find some kind of healing after the deadliest attack on the minority community in a decade. Saturday's attack unleashed a wave of fury

by Copts over what they say is deep anti-Christian sentiment among Muslims and the state's failure to address it and protect Christians. For days afterward, Copts clashed with police in unusually fierce riots, and there was concern of new unrest after Thursday's Mass. But healing was hard to come by, with some Copts skeptical anything will change.

"Some Muslims are good people," said Raymonda Ramzy, a 45-year-old worshipper dressed in black entering Mass at the main Coptic Church in the Cairo district of Giza. "But even on my way here, a couple of young men shouted at me, 'God take you all and rid us of you.'"

WORLD BRIEFS

Ivory Coast election winner wants rival ousted

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The internationally recognized winner of Ivory Coast's presidential election is asking for special forces to launch a commando operation to remove the country's defiant sitting president who has refused to cede power five weeks after losing the vote. Hunkered down at a hotel guarded by United Nations peacekeepers, Alassane Ouattara told The Associated Press on Thursday that Laurent Gbagbo would try to flee if the regional Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, sent in troops to oust him. "I know Mr. Gbagbo," Ouattara said on the lawn of the lagoonside hotel. "If he sees that ECOWAS troops are coming to capture him, believe me he will start running away. I know him well. He does not have the courage to face those type of situations."

Puerto Rico town struggles to heal from fatal fire

FLORIDA, Puerto Rico (AP)—They ran out of the house one by one, several of them bald

and nearly naked, their hair and clothes burned off in a New Year's blaze that police say was set by a relative wielding kerosene and a homemade torch. "Everyone came out yelling, 'He's crazy! He's crazy!'" neighbor Viviana Bruno, 31, told The Associated Press as she recalled the fire that claimed five lives and critically injured several people. "It was like a horror movie," she said. The first person out of the two-story home nestled near the mountains of the central Puerto Rican town of Florida was Samuel Molina.

Report: Police increase presence in London

LONDON (AP)—More police officers were being deployed at transport hubs in London amid continuing fears of a terrorist attack, British media reported Thursday. Sky News reported that transport police were told to cancel days off Friday, and that there would be a heavy police presence across the capital—including near Luton and Heathrow airports. The report quoted unnamed sources as saying that members of the emergency services had recently been briefed about how to respond to a Mumbai-style attack on London.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Media watchdog urges India to protect journalists

NEW DELHI (AP)—A media watchdog group says journalists working in India's conflict zones face intimidation and false arrest, without the same protections as those in major cities. Reporters Without Borders asked India on Friday to explain last week's arrest of two journalists in different states who were accused of meeting with communist rebels, saying one had been at a literary conference and the other was entrapped by police. It also condemned charges of intimidating witnesses leveled against a reporter who revealed police abuse in southern Karnataka.

US envoy meets with Japan officials on North Korea

TOKYO (AP)—A U.S. envoy says he has had a "useful and productive" conversation with Japanese officials about easing tensions on the Korean peninsula. Stephen Bosworth, who is Washington's special envoy for North Korea policy, met with

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, January 8, 2011

UFO preps up for leadership seminar, election of officers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This month, the United Filipino Organization is getting ready to conduct a leadership seminar before they hold the election for a new set of officers.

The umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI plans to hold the seminar on the third week of January followed by the election on the last week of the month.

"The leadership seminar aims to prepare UFO members who have the potential to become the next officers of the organization," said president Olive Yana in an interview yesterday.

Yana said the leadership seminar will educate UFO members about the definitions and responsibilities of a leader as well as the necessary spiritual preparation in becoming an elected leader.

The seminar will also be an opportunity to understand the responsibilities of a non-profit organization like the UFO in the community where it belongs, she added.

Yana said resource speakers for the leadership seminar are Tan Holdings senior vice presi-



United Filipino Organization officers and members pose with Consul General Medardo Macaraig during their Christmas Party at Shark's Fin Ocean Palace Restaurant in Susupe last Dec. 28.

dent Eli Arago, labor representative Carmelina Velasquez, Fr.

Celso Magbanua, and a Guam Lions Club officer.

According to Yana, the leadership seminar was initially slated

for November last year but had to be rescheduled to give way to the organization's holiday activity, the 2010 Paskong Pinoy or Filipino Christmas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of July parade.

During the 2010 officers' term, Yana said UFO was able to construct the extension project at the Kristo Rai Church, sponsor the Tagalog mass every Sunday at 6pm, have some of the members instituted as lecturers and ministers, and support 2010 Liberation Day Second Princess Marie Kastel S. Tambiga.

Yana said she attributes the success of all their activities to the participation and support of all UFO officers and members.

"We're like a family at UFO. We're all united and that's something I am proud of," Yana told *Saipan Tribune*.

Yana expressed hope that members will give their solid support to the next set of officers so that UFO continues to give contribution to the community.

'Successful term'

Yana, who served as the UFO president for 2010, believes she had a very successful term because they were able to accomplish new projects on top of their usual lined up of projects.

Among UFO's regular activities are the annual treks to Mt. Tapochao during Lent, the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball League, Pistang Pinoy, Paskong Pinoy, and the Fourth

Hard Rock employees learn about reintegration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five Filipino workers employed by Hard Rock Café Saipan availed of the reintegration orientation conducted by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

The orientation was held from 2pm to 3pm on Jan. 5 at the Hard Rock conference room.

Operations manager Reynaldo Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that they requested for the orientation since their employees were not able to attend the reintegration program last year.

The National Reintegration

Program for Overseas Filipino Workers, held on Dec. 29, 2010 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, was created to prepare Filipino workers and their families for their eventual return to the Philippines.

The program featured presentations about migration realities, financial planning, going into business, different types of business opportunities, as well as testimonials from Filipinos on Saipan who have successfully established their own businesses back home.

According to Perez, Filipinos account for 40 percent of the workforce at Hard Rock.

"With all the uncertainties for

all foreign workers, we thought of this program for our Filipino employees to prepare them since no one knows what will happen in terms of workers' status," he said.

Perez disclosed that they invited representatives from the Consulate and POLO so they can directly answer questions from the employees.

In an interview, labor representative Carmelina Velasquez said they were pleased that the staff and management of Hard Rock expressed interest in the reintegration program they offer.

"It only goes to show that they recognize the importance of reintegration benefits and that they are preparing themselves

with whatever is going to happen by having a number of options," she said.

Velasquez, who served as the resource person for the reintegration orientation, said the discussion focused on migration realities and financial literacy.

"They learned the importance of saving and investing what they have earned after years of work on Saipan," she added.

Perez said the discussion had been helpful for all employees who attended the reintegration orientation on Wednesday.

"Since the program had been effective, we plan to participate in the follow up activities," he added.

Consulate, POLO to offer more business classes

» Soon to offer Mandarin class

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez said classes to be offered by the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office will focus on actual business opportunities.

"This year, our main thrust is business," Velasquez told

Saipan Tribune in an interview yesterday.

According to Velasquez, these business opportunities will be based on the survey they conducted among the participants of the National Reintegration Program for Overseas Filipino Workers at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Dec. 19.

Participants of the reintegration

program were asked to fill out survey forms inquiring what kind of businesses will be featured in their follow up activities involving small group discussions.

Velasquez said they will most likely not offer classes previous courses like culinary arts and baking and instead focus on other livelihood prospects.

The labor representative said they will release the schedule of

the follow up activities as soon as they finish tallying all survey forms and finalize the list of resource persons.

However, Velasquez noted that significant courses like computer literacy and language will still be available at the Marianas Business Plaza.

In fact, Velasquez disclosed that they will start offering a Mandarin language class this year, with Reynaldo Garcia as instructor.

Gov't questions corruption plea bargain

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government's chief lawyer filed an urgent motion Wednesday with an anti-graft court asking it to void a plea bargain agreement between state prosecutors and a former senior general accused of plunder.

Under the deal, former Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who was accused of amassing 303 million pesos (\$6.9 million) while serving as armed forces comptroller, pleaded guilty to a lesser offense. Plunder is punishable by up to 40 years, while the lesser offense has a minimum of six years.

He was freed by the court on Dec. 16 after he posted bail, pending sentencing. Officials say that the time Garcia served while awaiting trial will likely cover any sentence.

Solicitor General Joel Cadiz said the anti-graft court ignored strong evidence against the ex-military officer when it approved the deal in May.

Corruption is an explosive issue in the 120,000-strong military and has sparked several rebellions by disgruntled troops in recent years. Soldiers have been

struggling with a dearth of weapons and equipment while dealing with communist and Muslim insurgencies and terror threats.

As the gatekeeper of the military's funds, Garcia handled the military budget and procurement as well as funds from the United Nations for Filipino troops serving as peacekeepers in troubled areas and money for joint exercises with U.S. troops, said President Benigno Aquino III's spokeswoman Abigail Valte.

Cadiz said his office normally is not involved in trials before the anti-graft court, so he filed a motion asking the court "to allow us to come in and stop the plea bargaining agreement."

He noted that it was irregular for the agreement to be approved without notice to the offended party—the military.

Allegations of Garcia's illicit assets became known in 2003 after U.S. Customs informed the Philippines that his sons had been caught trying to enter the United States with \$100,000 in undeclared funds.

VIZCONDE MASSACRE WITNESS

Jessica Alfaro stands by story

» Guingona insists star witness is credible

By CATHY C. YAMSUAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Star witness Jessica Alfaro stands by her story that Hubert Webb and his friends were the perpetrators of the Vizconde massacre.

She also denied being an asset or agent of the National Bureau of Investigation in an e-mail sent to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* Thursday through the victims' relatives.

Alfaro, 46, said tagging her as such in an effort to discredit her was "all crap," even asking how come she had never received any compensation from the NBI if it were true.

"I stand by my story," Alfaro's e-mail read. "Am I dismayed by the decision of the (Supreme Court)? Yes, but what can I do (?)"

"I am not an NBI agent nor an NBI asset. That's all crap (sic)! Eh di sana may sweldo ako. Di naman ako puwede magtrabaho don," she added using slang text in Filipino in her message. (I should have had a salary. But I could not work there)

Alfaro has said she is no longer interested in testifying after learning of the high tri-

bunal's decision last Dec. 14, acquitting Webb et al. because the prosecution had failed to establish their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

She also shrugged off questions by the *Inquirer* about the circumstances related to the rape and murder of Carmela Vizconde, 18, in the massacre on June 30, 1991, in which her mother Estrellita, 47, and sister Jennifer, 7, were also repeatedly stabbed to death.

All documented

"It's all documented, she can refer to that," Alfaro told Vizconde's nephew Rodel in reference to this reporter's queries sent through e-mail. "That's all I can say. I hope this will help."

Webb, 41, son of former Sen. Freddie Webb, was freed last month, along with six others accused.

President Benigno Aquino III has ordered a reinvestigation of the case to establish the truth about one of the most heinous crimes in the country.

The Constitution proscribes a retrial of Webb and the others acquitted—all scions of wealthy families—under the principle of double jeopardy.

Motion for reconsideration

In clearing Webb et al., the Supreme Court cast doubt on Alfaro's credibility by describing her as "an NBI asset" with a past marred by drug use.

The tribunal also noted that Alfaro submitted two affidavits with "significant discrepancies" on April 28 and May 22, 1995.

Last Dec. 29, widower Laro Vizconde filed a motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court.

Vizconde, 72, who was working in a restaurant in the United States when his wife and daughters were slaughtered, defended Alfaro. He said the credibility of NBI agent Artemio Sacaguig, in whose presence the sketchier first affidavit was prepared, "was never established" in court.

It was in the second affidavit, narrated in the presence of NBI agent Jun Nombres, a childhood friend of her father, that Alfaro revealed seeing Webb in the act of "pumping" Carmela who was gagged, moaning and in tears as she was violated in the master bedroom.

Sacaguig testified that Alfaro was an NBI informer and the Supreme Court concluded that she was produced by the agency in 1995—four years after the murders—to implicate Webb and his group as "a badge of excellent investigative work."



Alfaro

High on drugs

Other highlights of Alfaro's testimony in court:

Alfaro drove with boyfriend Peter Estrada to the Alabang Town Center (ATC) parking lot to buy shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) from Artemio "Dong" Ventura on June 29, 1991.

Alfaro said it was there where Estrada introduced her to his friends Webb, Antonio "Tonyboy" Lejano, Miguel Rodriguez, Hospicio "Pyke" Fernandez, Michael Gatchalian and Joey Filart.

Alfaro was already high on shabu when Webb asked her to relay a message to Carmela in BF Homes Pitong Daan enclave in Parañaque City.

Carmela had just arrived home when Alfaro came so the girl asked her to return after 20 minutes. Alfaro and the others went back to ATC for another shabu session.

The group went back to BF Pitong Daan. Alfaro proceeded

to the Vizconde house and saw Carmela in the garden.

Carmela said she had to leave the house for a while and asked Alfaro to return before midnight. Carmela said she would leave the pedestrian gate, the iron grills that led to the kitchen and the kitchen door unlocked.

Gang rape planned

Alfaro trailed Carmela as she drove out of BF Pitong Daan. Somewhere along Aguirre Avenue, Alfaro saw Carmela drop off a man whom she believed to be the girl's boyfriend.

Alfaro returned to ATC and briefed Webb about Carmela's instructions. But when she also told Webb of Carmela's male companion, his mood changed ("bad trip").

The group had another session, this time mixing cocaine with shabu. After 45 minutes, Webb said it was time to leave.

Alfaro recalled hearing Webb say in Filipino: "We will line up for Carmela and I will be first ('Pipilahan natin. Ako ang mauuna.')" Lejano answered that he would be next.

The group arrived in front of the Vizconde residence in a three-vehicle convoy shortly before midnight. Alfaro passed through the gate first, followed by Webb, Lejano and Ventura.

Eyewitness to rape

Ventura mounted the hood of the Vizcondes' Nissan Sentra parked in the garage and loosened the light bulb over it. The smaller group then went through the iron grill gate and passed the dirty kitchen.

Alfaro said Carmela opened

the aluminum screen door of the kitchen for them. She looked at Webb for a moment and together, they headed to the dining area.

Alfaro decided to go out. When Lejano asked her where she was going, she said she was going for a smoke.

While smoking in the garden, she heard a woman's voice ask "Sino 'yan?" prompting her to rush quickly back to her car.

After about 10 minutes, Alfaro returned inside the house through the same route. In the kitchen, she saw Ventura searching a woman's bag on the dining table. He told her to look for the keys to the main door and the car. They did not find the keys.

Unable to open the main door, Alfaro returned to the kitchen. She stood on a spot leading to the dining area, heard a noise coming from the master bedroom and decided to follow it.

Why Jennifer was killed

Alfaro opened the door and peeked. She saw Webb "pumping" Carmela who was gagged, moaning and in tears. Two bloodied bodies lay on the bed.

Lejano was at the foot of the bed about to put on his jacket.

Shocked by what she saw, Alfaro said she still recalled Webb picking up a stone and throwing it at the main door, breaking its glass frame before they rushed out.

In a "blaming session" held in another house inside BF Homes, Alfaro pieced together that Carmela's mother Estrellita was the first to be killed, then 7-year-old Jennifer.

At one point, Alfaro heard Ventura ask Webb: "Bakit naman pati 'yung bata?" (Why include the child?)

Webb said Jennifer had awakened while he was raping Carmela. The child jumped on him, bit his shoulders and pulled his hair. In his fury, he grabbed Jennifer, pushed her to the wall and stabbed her repeatedly.

PH police arrest suspect in victim's photo

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A man who appeared in a photograph aiming his gun at a local councilman moments before he was fatally shot in front of his family has been arrested in his northern Philippine hideout, police said Friday.

The victim, Councilman Reynaldo Dagsa of Caloocan city in metropolitan Manila, took the picture as he was standing outside his house photographing his smiling wife, daughter and mother-in-law on New Year's Eve. The picture earlier led to the arrests of a second suspected gunman and an alleged accomplice.

Police Chief Jimmy Rivera of Isabela province said the latest suspect arrested, Arnel Buenaflor, was captured late Thursday in a boarding house in Aurora township, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) north of Manila. Rivera showed reporters a baseball cap with a distinctive blue-and-red insignia that police recovered from Buenaflor and said it was the same one worn by the suspect in the picture.

Caloocan city police chief Jude Santos said Buenaflor, who had been released on bail while facing robbery charges, admitted to arresting officers that he shot



Arnel Buenaflor, the alleged assassin of a village councilman Reynaldo Dagsa on New Year's Eve, is presented to the media in handcuffs following his arrest, in Isabela province in northern Philippines Friday, Jan. 7, 2011.

the victim. He claimed the councilman, who had the reputation of being tough on crime, was "heavy handed" on suspects, including him, Santos said.

Police obtained the photograph from Dagsa's family and said it helped them obtain tips and leads that led to the suspects. The photo was first published in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on Tuesday.

Police said Buenaflor fired four shots and one hit Dagsa in the chest, while the second alleged gunman who is not seen in the photo fired a shot from behind Dagsa but missed him.

Dagsa's family said they did not notice the gunshots because of exploding firecrackers amid the New Year's revelry.

Santos said they tracked Buenaflor down to a rented room in the northern Philippines after police in Isabela recovered a cell phone of his live-in partner, which she apparently dropped in a bus they boarded in their escape from Manila. Santos said she was being questioned by police about her role in helping Buenaflor to hide.

He said police will file murder charges against Buenaflor, the second alleged gunman and the alleged accomplice who acted as a lookout during the shooting.

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BIR hot on heels of 12 tax evaders; celeb doc convicted

By NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Joel Mendez, who touts himself as a celebrity doctor, was sentenced by the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) to two to four years in prison with a fine of P20,000 for two separate tax evasion cases filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in 2006.

"This may appear to be a small case in the sense that there was only a low penalty. But the signal given here is more than enough. It's worth the hard work if you really tell people you can't get away with violation of the tax revenue code and the anti-smuggling laws," Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said at a press conference.

Also at the news briefing were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, BIR Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares and Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez.

Purisima noted that the Mendez case was one of the first tax evasion cases filed after the Department of Finance launched the Run Against Tax Evaders (RATE) in 2005, when he

was the finance secretary under the Arroyo administration.

Henares also said that she had written De Lima asking for the prioritization of 12 tax evasion cases pending at the justice department since 2005.

Richard Gomez

The list includes the tax evasion case against actor Richard Gomez, Royal Era Productions owned by actor Eddie Gutierrez, real estate broker Myra Santos-Brodet, Sun Motors Industries, Mitsuko Phil. Corp., PT&T, One World Multi Industries Inc. and Excelance Weaving.

De Lima said she had issued an internal policy in the Department of Justice meting out sanctions to prosecutors who would miss the deadlines for resolving the tax evasion and smuggling complaints filed by the finance department.

The sanctions include the deferment of payment of the erring prosecutor's allowances and other benefits "as an initial course of action," De Lima said.

She said that she had given a Jan. 15 deadline for prosecutors handling

the tax evasion and smuggling cases filed since last July, when President Benigno Aquino III announced a renewed campaign to go after tax evaders and smugglers to shore up the government's measly coffers.

The CTA's second division found Mendez "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" for violation of Section 255 of the National Internal Revenue Code.

Mendez owns the Weigh Less Center, Mendez Body and Face and Salon Spa, and Mendez Body and Face Skin Clinic with principal office on Roces Avenue in Quezon City.

Schooled in Maryland, Mendez's clinics offer various services such as anti-aging treatment, rhinoplasty, facelift, foot and body scrub, body wrap, waxing, eye bag removal, tummy tuck, tattoo removal and breast augmentation.

The Mendez Medical Group is endorsed by several celebrities like actresses Pauleen Luna and Melanie Marquez, among others.

The CTA decision was penned by Associate Justice Juanito Castañeda Jr. and was concurred in by Associate Justice Cielito Mindaro-Gulla. Associate Justice Caesar Casanova dissented.

The first case against Mendez involved his failure to file his income

tax return in 2002. The second case stemmed from his failure to include the other branches of his popular beauty clinic when he filed his income tax return for his clinic's Dagupan City branch in 2003.

In his defense, Mendez claimed that he did not earn any income in 2002. He also said that while he catered to celebrities, this was done for free in exchange for their endorsements of his clinic.

However, the CTA said that Mendez "actually has unreported income earnings" for that year.

"His purchases and expenditures such as the ad placements, rents and purchase of vehicles undeniably prove that he has knowledge that he has substantial income which was actually used to spend on the said purchases and expenses," the court said.

Habitual failure

The CTA said this implied Mendez's attempt to "conceal said income earnings by not filing his income tax return."

The court said Mendez's "habitual failure" to file his income tax returns in 2001 and 2002 despite earning money during those years showed "the willfulness of his nonfiling of tax return for taxable year 2002."

Mendez claimed that he suffered a net income loss in 2003 when he filed the income tax return only from his Dagupan clinic branch, but the court noted that the prosecutors were able to prove otherwise.

Inquirer ads

BIR investigators were able to establish that Mendez also made significant purchases during that year, that also included advertisements with the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.

The Inquirer had issued a certification that Mendez's Weigh Less Center had advertising placements with the newspaper from 2001 to 2003 "and all the gross sales amounting to P3.79 million from the said ad placements were reported with the BIR."

Moreover, the court noted that Mendez himself admitted in his supplemental affidavit and his testimony during cross-examination that he put up several branches and spent P5 million for these in 2003.

De Lima said that 23 of the tax evasion cases filed since last July had been submitted for resolution while the others were in various stages of the preliminary investigation.

As for the smuggling cases, six were set to be resolved. **With a report from Inquirer Research**

Aquino: Gov't absorbs billions of LRT, MRT losses

By NORMAN BORDADORA, KRISTINE L. ALAVE, GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fares for commuter trains in Metro Manila will be raised to the level of those in air-conditioned buses, President Benigno Aquino III told reporters on Thursday.

He noted that taxpayers from outside Metro Manila were also subsidizing the operation and maintenance of the rail systems but were not benefiting from them.

The MRT and LRT lines are losing billions of pesos yearly that the national government is absorbing.

"What we are proposing is to put the (MRT/LRT) fare to the level of those being charged by air-conditioned buses," the President told reporters covering him at the launching of two ships built by Hanjin in Subic, Zambales.

Malacañang announced on Wednesday that it was supporting fare increases in the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines.

Jeepney and bus fares are also expected to go up because of rising fuel prices. Taxi fare are set to go up at least 33 percent on Jan. 14. The fare increases come on the heels of higher toll rates on expressways in Luzon.

Lawmakers said the rising costs of food, transport fares and toll could put a dent on Mr. Aquino's sky-high approval ratings.

Majority Leader and Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales II said it was a sacrifice the President had to make to address the fiscal deficit.

"I give it to the President for biting the bullet, so to speak. Besides, people should be willing to share in the burden of paying for it. At the end of the day, there is no free government service," Gonzales said in a text message.

Gonzales reckoned that the public would appreciate the whiff of fresh air from the President's candidness

on public matters. "He is telling the problem and solution as it is," he said.

House Deputy Minority Leader Milagros Magsaysay said she would not be surprised if "the people begin to express displeasure as their needs are not met."

Deputy Speaker and Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III said that while the cost increases could affect the President's popularity, this would be minimized if the government could explain it clearly to the public.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said the government should start studying the feasibility of increasing workers' pay to cope with the rising cost of living.

Much less than P60

The President said the average cost of moving a passenger on the MRT and LRT lines was P60, way below the current fares. An air-con bus ride costs about P20 to P30.

The existing fares are P12 to P15 per passenger on both the LRT 1 (Baclaran station in Pasay City to Monumento in Caloocan City) and LRT 2 (Santolan in Pasig City to Claro M. Recto in Manila), and P10 to P15 on the MRT line (North Avenue on EDSA in Quezon City to Edsa-Taft Avenue in Pasay.)

Mr. Aquino said the fares for the commuter trains when adjusted upward would still be much less than P60.

The President said taking the rail systems would still be more cost-efficient for commuters than riding the bus.

"If you think about it, when you ride the MRT, the trip would be faster than if you ride the bus but it would be at a lesser cost," he said.

The President said the commuter train service would improve if fares were raised to the level charged by air-con buses.

Some 500,000 passengers take the LRT 1 line daily, while some 250,000 use LRT 2. Close to 500,000 take the MRT daily.

Less than 20 centavos

The President also said the increase in toll rates would not justify any increase in the prices of food.

The President said that while the government needed to honor its contractual obligations to investors in public infrastructure, it was taking steps to reduce the economic impact on Filipinos.

"(On Wednesday), the secretary of agriculture (Proceso Alcala) reported that computations showed that (the toll hike) would add only a few centavos per kilo of goods transported," Mr. Aquino said.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup said computations by the agriculture department showed that the higher toll rates would raise commodity prices by less than 20 centavos.

"There should be no effect. The increment of the toll fee divided by the total kilos of goods is just 12-15 centavos," Salacup said in a phone interview.

Salacup issued the statement following toll increases in the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), North Luzon Expressway and Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway at the beginning of the year.

The highways are used by cargo trucks, buses and jeepneys that carry produce from Southern Tagalog and Central and northern Luzon to Metro Manila.

Retailers, who said that the toll raises would mean an increase of P5 to P10 on their goods, should explain how they came up with the figure, Salacup said. "It's not a justification," he said.

The President said the Toll Regulatory Board disallowed certain expenses that were supposed to be covered by the rate increase along SLEX.

"From P12 billion, it became P10 billion," the President said referring to the amount that needed to be recovered during the lifetime of the contract to operate the stretch from Alabang, Muntinlupa, to Calamba, Laguna.



RIZAL DAY

Philippines President Benigno Aquino, III center, talks with Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Ricardo David Jr., left, after the wreath-laying ceremony marking the 114th death anniversary of the country's national hero Dr. Jose Rizal Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010 in Manila, Philippines.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

VIEWFINDER

‘Bless us, Father, for we have erred’

By **NESTOR TORRE**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

If you're a producer and your film is about to start its run in the Metro Manila Film Festival, the last thing you need is controversy. Especially if your movie is a comedy, all you want is for viewers to have a good, hearty laugh from start to finish—absolutely no threats of boycott, please!

But that's exactly what has happened to King Comic Dolphy's current starrer "Father Jejemon," all because a few scenes in his movie, where he plays a priest for the first time in his career, attempt to get laughs from some "Communion" scenes that a number of viewers find ill-advised at best, and a thoughtless desecration of the Eucharist, at worst.

In particular, they object to a shot of a consecrated host "accidentally" being dropped and falling into a female communicant's ample cleavage. That's funny, right? Uh, not.

What the film person who thought up that sight gag forgot is the fact that Roman Catholics (who comprise the majority of Filipinos) believe that the consecrated host has in fact become the transubstantiated body of Jesus Christ.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dolphy, Maja Salvador, Yen Santos, and Ejay Falcon star in "Father Jejemon."

So, for it to be treated in such a disrespectful manner is a grievous affront, and should not be tolerated.

To be fair, after some people started to protest, the MTRCB and the movie's producers immediately took steps to mitigate the situation by removing the offensive shots from the film's trailer, as well as from the full-length feature that viewers are now watching during the festival.

But some people wonder how the unfunny scenes ended up in the movie's trailer in the first place. Dolphy

himself is supposed to be "Katoliko Cerrado"—so, as he shot the scene, didn't he realize its unacceptable consequences?

Just for laughs?

What about the members of the MTRCB review committee that passed judgment on the trailer and the full film? Weren't there any knowledgeable and sensitive Christians in the group who were bothered by those shots in which the consecrated host was disrespected, just to get a laugh?

What about the viewers who saw the trailer on TV and found nothing wrong with those offensive shots?

And, what about the TV newscasts that ran those shots, sometimes repetitively? Was it also to get a laugh? Or, was it a way to interest viewers into watching the film by way of negative publicity?

Well, so sorry, the offensive shots are no longer in the movie showing in the MMFF.

And, what about the threatened boycott? Personally, we wouldn't go that far, especially because amends have partially been made.

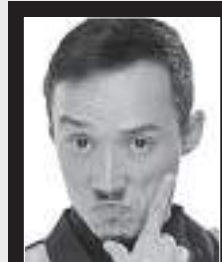
It's more instructive to take this unfortunate instance to remind everyone that religion should be taken more seriously and respectfully, not just by artists but also by the general population. And, while we're at it, note further that some local movies also err on point of racist, sexist, regionalist and other biases that similarly disrespect the characters or institutions being spoofed, disparaged or otherwise insulted.

TV and the movies are too potentially powerful to be used and perused in so cavalier and clueless a fashion. More thought, sensitivity, feeling-for and good judgment are definitely in order—for all of us!

Epi: Dad deserves awards

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Dolphy's "Father Jejemon" was the subject of much controversy. But the Quizon family has put everything behind them now, as they celebrate their patriarch's double victory in the recently concluded Metro Manila Film Festival.



Quizon

In a "Showbiz News Ngayon" interview on Dec. 28, actor Epi Quizon expressed his whole family's delight:

"[My dad] has apologized to the people [who were] offended. I think now is the time for us to forgive and forget. He won because he deserved it. He did justice to the roles. He was very effective in his drama scenes in 'Jejemon.' Now he's also very happy that many of my siblings have come home from the United States and Australia."

Epi said Pidol likes working, although his kids would rather see him retire now. **Allan Policarpio, contributor**

DOLLYWOOD

Quotable quotes from the stars

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Here are some quotable quotes from celebrities I interviewed in 2010. Their answers ran the whole gamut of emotions.

As always, it was a year of beautiful madness in show biz. The best part of my job is seeing a side of these stars not visible on TV. If you could only see what I see, you would admire and appreciate them more.

My gratitude to all the celebrities who opened up their hearts and bared their souls to Dollywood. Most of all, thanks a mil to all my loyal readers for making me a part of your 2010. May you never stop Dollywooding with me all throughout 2011.

GLORIA DIAZ: "I'm amazed that at my age I can still make an impact and stir up a controversy unintentionally. I refuse to fight with my detractors. Let them have their five minutes of fame."

OGIE ALCASID: "The failure of my first marriage is not something to be proud of. So I'll do everything humanly possible to make sure that my marriage to Regine will work."

ROSANNA ROCES: "Di ako takot bumalik sa hirap kasi dun naman ako galing. Pero ako ang isang babaeng di magugutom kasi ako'y maabilidad na Pinay."

DIONISIA PACQUIAO: "Ewan ko bakit kami iniintriga ni Jinkee.

Pareho naman kaming love ni Manny at pareho kaming pinag-sha-shopping. Iba lang nga ang hilig namin na brand. Ako Chanel, si Jinkee Hermes."



Paulate

RODERICK PAULATE: "I don't know why all these years people are still questioning my gender. I am comfortable

with my sexuality and I don't owe anybody an explanation for it. Bakit ba nila pino-problema kung ako mismo di ko pino-problema?"

DINGDONG DANTES: "I am thankful to have Marian (Rivera) as my inspiration because she has made me exceed what I hoped to achieve. She gives me the ammunition to deliver the needs of my character in our show, and that is the reality of how it is to love and be loved."

ARIEL RIVERA: "I'd rather not do cover songs because no matter how good my version is, I will always suffer by comparison to the original artist who sang it. Why be a poor copy of someone else?"

DINA BONNEVIE: "My kids cannot embrace me the way a partner does. Those are two different kinds of love which can't be equated."

SNOOKY: "I'm open to the possi-

bility of falling for a woman. I've had several relationships with men that didn't work out. Maybe I should try it out with a woman, but I'm not saying I'll jump into a lesbian relationship just for the heck of it. It's just an idea in my head."

DJ MO TWISTER: "When I'm in love, I want to be better than the last boyfriend my girlfriend had. I may seem so tough asking forbidden questions, but when it comes to matters of the heart, I'm such a softie."

GABBY CONCEPCION: "Timing is everything. People have been wanting Sharon (Cuneta) and me to make peace. It happened when the time was right, that's why it turned out smoothly. We are both happier persons now who are happy for each other."

WILMA DOESNT: "Wala akong insecurity sa sistema ko. Bilang supermodel, ang confidence level ko dapat parating to the maximum level, kaya deadma na lang sa mga iba diyan na insecure ata sa akin."

MR. FU: "Live lightly, love deeply and laugh endlessly."

ASSUNTA DE ROSSI: "Even if people keep trying to tear me and my husband apart, they will never succeed. Jules and I have our own little world that only us can enter. Off-limits ang intriga. It can't penetrate our happy world."

JOEY MARQUEZ: "Wala akong pinagsisihan sa lahat ng naka-relasyon ko, kasi naging masaya ako sa piling nila kahit di kami nagkatuluyan. My kids are the best compensation for all my lost loves. Kung di dumating ang mga babaeng yun sa buhay ko, wala akong mga anak na sentro ng mundo ko ngayon."

Meryll thinks network is out to get her dad

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Actress Meryll Soriano says ABS-CBN is out to get her father, Willie Revillame, a former talent of the network.

"Ayaw siyang tigilan. To think that all my dad wanted was to spread joy and help people," she told the Inquirer in a recent interview. "He's sad because he's being hindered from doing what he wants to do."

The Court of Appeals recently granted the request of TV5, which coproduces and airs Revillame's new game show "Willing Willie," for a 60-day temporary restraining order in connection with the P127-million copyright infringement suit filed by ABS-CBN.

In October last year, the Kapamilya network went to court to stop the airing of "Willing Willie."

Data conducted by the AGB Nielsen Media Research shows that "Willing Willie" has been topping weekend ratings. Revillame co-hosts the show with Valenzuela councilor Shalani Soledad.

Meryll herself recently attracted attention with her Best Actress victory at the 37th Brussels International Film Festival (IFF) in Belgium, and her recent inclusion in a Taiwanese independent film production.

'Pinoy Sunday'

"If the trophy were given by a local award-giving body, I'd be deeply honored already. Imagine my happiness when I received it abroad," she said of

the recognition she got for her compelling performance in the Mark Meily drama, "Donor."

The film, which also bagged the Best Picture award, is about a bootleg DVD vendor named Lizette (Meryll) who, wanting to go abroad, sells her kidney to a foreigner. When a law is passed banning organ transplants between Filipinos and foreigners, Lizette agrees to marry the patient—whom she has never met—for the surgery to push through.

Actor Marvin Agustin was also at the Brussels IFF as a jury member, the first Filipino actor invited to judge in the prestigious festival.

Likewise, Meryll was all praise for the production team of the drama-comedy

film "Pinoy Sunday," which stars Epy Quizon and Bayani Agbayani and was directed by Taiwanese Wi-ding Ho. It was the opening film at the recently concluded 12th Cinemania International Film Festival.

The story of two migrant factory workers whose weekend revolves around an abandoned red couch and their desire for comfort while working in a small bicycle factory, the film won for Ho the Best New Director award at the 47th Golden Horse Film Festival in Taipei.

"I played a very small role, but I'm happy to have had the chance of being in the cast," Meryll said. "I learned a lot about the working habits of the Taiwanese. They follow a very effective system that I hope we could adopt here."



Soriano

Maharlika – Opinyon

Innocent

The fact that the Supreme Court cleared Hubert Webb and six others of the Vizconde massacre doesn't make them innocent. So said Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez last week. "The Court said there was not enough basis to [affirm] the conviction of the accused. The Court did not say that they were innocent and that they did not commit the crime."

But of course they did.

What has happened to law in this country? You clear Hubert Webb and the six others accused of the Vizconde massacre, you make them

EDITORIAL

Herculean

At the end of the month, Chairman Jose Melo will retire from the Commission on Elections. Who will President Benigno Aquino III appoint to replace the man who oversaw the country's first nationwide automated elections?

The guessing game has started, but it is a game with serious consequences. The looming appointment is one of the most crucial decisions the President will make in his six-year term. For good or ill, it will help define his presidency. Even more important, the appointment will help determine whether the electoral system can be overhauled, once and for all.

Melo says he knows that at least two Supreme Court justices, one recently retired and the other about to reach retirement age, are among those being considered for the post. The high-profile constitutional position requires a lawyer to fill it, so it is no surprise that Supreme Court justices are often part of the equation. Melo himself is a retired justice, and Alfredo Benipayo was court administrator of the Supreme Court when he was appointed chairman in 2001. On the other hand, Hilario Davide Jr. and Bernardo Pardo were appointed to the Court after they had served in the Comelec.

Legal acumen is certainly called for. The thicket of election laws has grown into a forest, and we need an experienced and resourceful guide to lead us through it. A deep familiarity with collegial decision-making is also necessary, since the Comelec, like the Supreme Court, is designed to function as a collective of equals.

But with all due respect to Melo and the two justices said to be under consideration, the challenge of cleaning the Augean stables of Philippine elections requires not so much the cunning of the veteran Odysseus but the pluck and vigor of the young Hercules. We do not mean that another Supreme Court retiree will necessarily fail at the twin task of conducting elections and reforming the system. We have criticized nominees to the Court itself who turned out to be sterling justices, and we can be wrong about this one too. We certainly do not mean to disrespect old age or the continuing contributions of senior citizens to the democratic project and the common burden of building a better nation. But the next chairman of the Comelec will face, now and throughout the mandated seven-year term, three unforgiving realities that require the ambition, the energy and the outlook of the (relatively) young.

The paramount responsibility of the Comelec to conduct free and fair elections demands field generalship, not armchair strategizing. The pernicious influence of warlords in several provinces can be defanged in large part by doing what the late, great Haydee Yorac did with Ali Dimaporo: literally and figuratively disarming the feared governor. We need a chairman who is feisty enough to do the same, taking on the so-called command votes, taming the armed services, turning the Comelec's national organization into a potent force for reform.

The constitutional duty of the Comelec to help minimize election spending demands not only the political courage to penalize violators (finally!) but the out-of-the-box imagination to prevent excesses. For instance, last year's vote was marred by fudging on advertising rules and sometimes abusive experimentation on the unregulated Internet. We need a Comelec chairman who understands the evolving process, not merely the product, of advertising. Moreover, we need one who "gets" the Net.

Above all, the crucial obligation of the Comelec to decide on the fate of computerized elections demands not only well-meaning openness to the advice of IT experts, but actual technical savvy. We do not mean that the new appointee should be able to write code (although that skill will certainly prove useful), we only mean that the new chairman should be an expert user of technology, the kind of tough, discriminating customer the best IT companies and telecommunications companies always try to please. This skill set is especially important, if the Comelec decides to reject the Smart-TIM PCOS system we used last year, or junk automation altogether in lieu of something simpler, cheaper, more transparent. An Odysseus with his past behind him won't have the credibility to rally public support for such a major, and certainly controversial, decision. But a Hercules with his future ahead of him will.

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innocent. As well you should. That is a cardinal principle of democracy: A person is innocent until proven guilty. Arguably Webb et al. had been proven guilty by previous courts—and done time for it. But the reversal of the decision of those courts, specifically on the grounds that there were infirmities in the testimonies against the accused, or indeed that the prosecution never proved them guilty beyond reasonable doubt, makes them innocent. There are no ifs and buts about it.

You get the feeling the Court is so scared about the backlash from its decision it has to make distinctions of the sort Marquez does. What kind of lesson about law and justice does this send to the public? What it is saying is this: Of course we had no choice but to clear Webb et al. of the murders upon reviewing their case and seeing that the evidence against them would not stand up. What else could we do? But feel free to hold on to your suspicions. For all you know, they might really be guilty. The prosecution simply failed to prove it.

That is crazy. What the Supreme Court should in fact be saying is this: But of course we had no choice but to clear Webb et al. The evidence against them was weak. That is the way of democracy. That is the way of justice. Our decision makes them free, our decision makes them innocent. We call upon the public to treat them as such. We call upon the public to lift the veil of mistrust upon them.

Indeed, what the Supreme Court should in fact be saying is this: But of course we had no choice but to clear Webb et al. They should never have gone to jail to begin with. Not on that basis, not on that body of evidence. That they did, and for the time that they did, that is a crime. That they did is an injustice to the aggrieved, who must now continue to quest for justice to put a closure to his nightmare. That they did so is an injustice to them. That injustice must be redressed.

That is the reason the courts should be very careful about their rulings. That is the vital, compelling, all-encompassing reason the courts should scrutinize, analyze, pass through a fine mesh every scrap of evidence, every bit of reasoning, for or against someone in a case to make sure, such as imperfect human beings can ever make things perfect, the right verdict is made. The lives of people are in their hands, which is not just the physical lives of the accused, particularly in heinous crimes such as this, but the spiritual lives of the aggrieved, whose already hollow lives will be made hollower by injustice.

That applies not just to the Supreme Court but to the lowest court of this land. They may not settle for sloppiness—or, worse, for being

bought—on the assumption Big Brother in the form of the higher courts will always be there to set things right. Justice begins at the beginning of things. Injustice begins the first day an innocent man spends in jail.

Of course Lauro Vizconde has suffered unimaginably, indescribably, over all these years. Anyone who says he can understand how he feels is an idiot. No one can begin to comprehend the scale of loss, the enormity of desolation, that has weighed upon him every moment of his life in the aftermath of the mind-boggling atrocity. Not even victims of war can. Some deaths are just unacceptable. Some deaths are just never put behind.

None of that however is a reason to put an innocent man in jail. Or keep him in jail after he has been shown to be innocent. I myself had wondered about the Webb case over the years. I began by believing Jessica Alfaro's account but began having doubts when documents showed Hubert to be in the US at the time of the murders. The argument that his father, Freddie, was a senator at the time and was in a position to manipulate documents made little sense. Few things on earth are as impervious to manipulation as US Immigration documents, as people who have tinkered with them have found out.

Of course Hubert had a reputation at the time of being a bad egg, or running around with a bad crowd. That was not then, nor is it now, a reason

to pin him down to this crime. The notion that a fellow might as well hang for a sheep as for a lamb, or pay as much for one crime as for another, which is the notion the police entertain when they drag the usual suspects out of their lairs and charge them with murdering Rizal, they might as well have done so, or worse "salvaging" them, does not make everything add up in the end, it makes everything subtract in the end. It does not produce justice, it produces mayhem.

Unless someone can show me that the Supreme Court made the decision in the interests of anything other than fairness, I myself am perfectly willing to say, by all means let's start all over and see if we cannot heat up a cold case. No, more than that, I myself am perfectly willing to say Hubert Webb and his companions are not just free men, they are innocent men, the Supreme Court decision has made them so, and I will regard them so. No, still more than that, I am perfectly willing to say, they are not just innocent men, they are victims of a grievous crime, an injustice has been done them, they deserve redress.

But I'll just start by presuming them innocent. That is the least I owe them.



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Gold finds in PH, then and now

If we are to believe Wikipedia, the Philippines ranks 17th in a world list of gold-producing countries. In another list, without any ranking, the Philippines is one of the world's 98 countries or places where gold has been discovered or produced. That the Philippines produces gold comes as a surprise to many Filipinos who then ask the million-peso question: So why are we so poor? In the 16th century, when men like Magellan and Columbus set out to explore a world unknown to them—and thus East met West—they had trade at the back of their minds. Asia gave Europe spices that preserved and improved the taste of European food. Today spices come cheaply and we have kitchen cupboards with pepper and cinnamon that cost a fortune in the past.

History is not always about great men and women, neither is it always about great events. Nick Joaquin writing half a century ago showed us that there are many voices, many rooms in that long story of our past.

When we read Pigafetta's first-hand account of the Magellan expedition, we catch a glimpse of life in the islands in the 16th century. Although Pigafetta's account did not come with pictures, his words were often good enough. While I was discussing Pigafetta in class many years ago, one student raised her hand and asked, "Was Pigafetta gay?" I was surprised by the comment because I had never thought about the chronicler's sexual preference even if his work is the earliest to describe the sexual practices of our ancestors. To encourage further discussion I replied with a question, "What made you think Pigafetta was gay?" She then pulled out her photocopied reading and focused the class on the paragraph-long description Pigafetta made of a handsome young king and compared it to the few cursory sentences about a woman.

When the class read through the text, I realized that Pigafetta was describing not just the physical looks of the king but also the gold ornaments he wore on his ears covered by his long, black, straight hair. Then there was the knife with a gold hilt on his waist, and the rings he wore on his fingers and toes. He was bedecked like a Christmas tree. He must have been an impressive and dazzling sight. Gold then as now was a marker of status, wealth and power.

Then Pigafetta said that gold was so plentiful that one simply had to kick the sand to reveal gold nuggets. Everyone knows how hard it is to pan or dig for raw gold. That refined gold nuggets could be found in the sand suggests that the Magellan expedition had come across a grave, and the gold found there was the "pabaon." The word "baon" here having a double meaning, as in something you bring on a journey

or something interred under the ground. Pigafetta did not mention it, but we can be sure there was looting of graves, and this contributed to the anger that led to the slaughter in Mactan in 1521.

In 1565 when Legazpi established the first Spanish settlement in Cebu, he tried to put grave robbers out of business—not out of respect for the dead but to secure the King's share in all the treasures found in the islands. Blair and Robertson translated a document about Legazpi being "informed that many Spanish soldiers and sailors have opened many graves and burial-places of the native Indians in this island, wherein a quantity of gold and other jewels has been found; and inasmuch as those opening these graves and finding the said gold have not made a report thereof to His Excellency nor to His Majesty's officials, in order that His Majesty may receive and take his royal fifths and rights; therefore he ordered ... that all who have opened any graves whence they have abstracted gold, jewels and other valuables, and those who

have in their possession gold and jewels of these islands, however they may have been obtained, shall appear and make full declaration regarding such things before his majesty's officials, under penalty that whoever shall act contrary to this order shall, besides losing all the gold and other valuables thus obtained and abstracted, be proceeded against in due form of law."

Furthermore, he ordered that, "from this time henceforth, no grave or burial-place be opened without the permission of His Excellency, in order that there might be present at this opening one of the king's officials, or myself, the above-mentioned notary, so that no fraud or deceit may occur, and so that an account and memorandum

may be taken of everything under penalty of five hundred pesos de minas and of returning all that was taken from such grave or burial-place, together with the fifth over and above this for his majesty's exchequer and treasury."

Recently, pre-Spanish Philippine gold was excavated by National Museum archeologists, in cooperation with University of San Carlos anthropologists led by Jojo Bersales, in Plaza Independencia in downtown Cebu and on the grounds of Boljoon church also in Cebu. The findings are slim but significant because, often, other important data have been disturbed by treasure hunters. In 1565, Legazpi demanded a declaration of excavated gold; today excavated treasure must be declared to the National Museum. Then as now nobody declares gold uncovered in archeological sites, resulting in the loss of significant data and artifacts required in our reconstruction of the pre-Spanish past.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



2011 YELLOW PAGES

Yellow Pages Ink Business Account manager Julie Manglona and IT&E marketing coordinator Nola Hix present acting CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos with the first copies of the 2011 CNMI Phonebook Tuesday, Jan. 3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Gilbert Gatmaitan who will be celebrating his birthday today, Jan. 8. Greeting from your family and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Maricriz Zapanta who will be celebrating her birthday today, Jan. 8. Greeting from your family and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Robert "Pitbull" Palacios. Enjoy your birthday on Jan. 8. Party hard but keep it safe. With love, the pretty ladies and your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Josepha "Sepa" Litulumar Arriola and many more birthdays to come. Wishing you the best. Greeting from your partnah si Jokeka 12...



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Jennifer Iginoef, who celebrated her birthday last Jan. 6. We wish you all the luck and happiness throughout the year! May you have many more birthdays to come. God bless! Greeting from your Joeten Ace Hardware Family.



BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Jo. Greetings from your friends and neighbors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CEBU'S SONGBIRD MEETS KA FERDIE

Saipan Tribune's Ferdie de la Torre, second from left, poses with Cebu City's emerging band of Lorelei Nunez at Papa's Resto Bar last New Year's Eve. Lorelei Nunez used to be one of the vocalists of the popular Music Nuts band of Alex Nunez in Cebu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Why do kids dress for June when it's January?

By BETH J. HARPAZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Among the great spectacles of winter, along with the northern lights and frozen lakes, are coatless kids.

No coat, no gloves? No prob!

These teens and tweens are chillin' out, literally and figuratively, in their sweatshirts and kicks. Maybe a boy will accessorize with a baseball cap, and a girl might choose stylish boots—but nothing weather-proof, please! Some boys even wear shorts year-round, and many parents say they've given up the fight.

For example, Jack Rogers, 12, of Fishers, Ind., was wearing shorts last week. "I know lots of kids who do that," he said.

His grandma doesn't understand. "It's 15 degrees. Why doesn't he have a coat on him?" she asked.

"I told her, 'I have to pick and choose my battles,'" recalled Jack's mom, Shelley Rogers Landes. "I need to let him make decisions that really are inconsequential at the end of day."

In a telephone interview, Jack explained his reasons for dressing light in winter: "Coats are just a hassle, putting it all on. It makes me bulky. I just like to be in short sleeves."

He doesn't mind gloves, but boots? "Nah, I don't like 'em." If his sneakers get wet, he says, "it doesn't really bother me."

Carleton Kendrick of Millis, Mass., a family therapist, says that for teens, "wearing bulky winter coats, gloves, boots - unless teen girls consider them high fashion—and hats screams nerd, geek, baby, dork ... UNCOOL!"

He added: "Short of real and present danger of your teens getting frostbite, let them deal with being cold to be cool."

Autumn O'Bryan said she was shocked, after moving to New Hampshire from Los Angeles, to see "both girls and boys



This Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010 photo courtesy of Shelley Rogers Landes shows her sons Jack Rogers, 12, left, and Maxwell Rogers, 9, as they play on a mound of snow in Fishers, Ind.

with sweatshirts and sneakers in a blizzard waiting for their bus. I even saw a couple of boys with short-sleeve shirts. The only hats were baseball hats and no gloves or boots on anyone." O'Bryan had been fighting with her son about wearing a coat, but "after that I gave up and have never brought it up again."

In Alaska, of course, the dangers of frostbite and hypothermia are real. "Our teenagers are the same as everyone else's—they think they're Superman, they're invincible—but our weather is different," said Shelby Nelson, spokeswoman for Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. She said local media, schools, police and other officials work to get the message out to kids that dressing warmly is a matter of safety. Even a car ride can turn deadly if you break down and have to walk a mile in 20-below zero weather.

Dr. Art Strauss, an emergency room physician at Fairbanks

Memorial, said that in places with milder weather, parents need not worry as much as they do in Alaska. If teens are "going off to school in 30 or 40 degree (above zero) weather with less than ideal coverings, they're probably OK, as long as they do not find themselves stuck outside for a long time at those temperatures," he said. And contrary to what some parents may think, Strauss said raging teen hormones do not raise body temperature. "There is not any truth to that," he said.

Wendy Kerschner of Adamstown, Pa., says her 14-year-old simply doesn't mind cold air on his legs, so he "wears shorts to school almost every day." Her husband doesn't think it's a big deal, since the only time their son is outside is waiting for the school bus. But like a lot of moms, she does wonder: "What must my neighbors think of me!"

Some parents refuse to capitulate to the "dress-like-it's-

June" mentality. "It is worth the fight," said Mara Woloshin, mother of a 14-year-old in Portland, Ore. "Kids will work to wear parents down. At the same time, very few parents know that a gentle 'no way' goes a long way toward gloves and a hoodie. It's our job as parents to make men out of boys and try to civilize them in the process!"

Cris Taylor, also of Portland, says her son has lost three jackets and sweatshirts this school year. She says kids reject outerwear partly due to "laziness! A coat, hat, gloves is just too much for them to keep track of and deal with." The teen tendency to live for the moment is a factor too, Taylor says. When her son is inside, "he doesn't think it through or plan ahead and realize that we are going to be outside and that he will then be cold."

While girls may find some winter fashions like Ugg boots or cute knit hats appealing,

Kevin Nadal, an assistant professor of psychology at John

Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, says "boys at this stage are dealing with developing their masculinity. So in many ways, toughing it out by not wearing warm enough clothes may be a way for them to appear manly."

Strauss says alcohol ingestion—not teenage machismo—is the No. 1 cause of hypothermia cases seen nationwide by emergency departments. And in Alaska, frostbite is seen most often among people of all ages who are unprepared for extreme cold. Just going out to retrieve the paper in flip-flops and getting locked out in subzero temperatures can result in frostbite or hypothermia, Strauss says. And tourists who fail to cover their ears while outside watching the northern lights sometimes develop "Dumbo ears"—severe swelling, blistering and redness.

"This should make any teen with any shred of vanity wish to wear a hat in colder temperatures," Strauss said.



Pope Benedict XVI kisses a child during a visit to the Rome Gemelli hospital, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011. Pope Benedict XVI has brought stuffed animals, books and candy to children with spina bifida who are being treated at a Rome hospital.

UK kids' author whose book inspired 'Babe' dies

LONDON (AP)—British children's author Dick King-Smith, whose novel "The Sheep-Pig" inspired the hit movie "Babe," has died at the age of 88.

His publisher, Random House Children's Books, said in a statement that the writer died in his sleep early Tuesday morning at his home near Bath, about 100 miles west of London, after suffering from poor health in recent years.

King-Smith was honored by Queen Elizabeth II when he received an OBE last year for his services to children's literature.

The writer worked for 20

years as a farmer before he trained as a primary school teacher. In his 50s, he began to write his first story, "The Fox Busters," about chickens taking their revenge on foxes. The book was published in 1978.

He has published over 100 books—mostly about animals and often about pigs, his favorite—which have sold more than 15 million copies worldwide. The 1995

Oscar-winning movie "Babe," based on his story about a pig that behaves like a sheepdog, made his books a global hit.

He once said of his work:

"Much as I love 'The Wind In The Willows' and the works of



Beatrix Potter, I never dress my animals in clothes ... They be-

have as animals should behave, with the exception that they open their mouths and speak the Queen's English."

"Dick was one of the kindest and funniest authors, and a delight to publish," said Annie Eaton, a publisher at Random House.

Eaton added that despite enjoying Hollywood success with the film of his novel "The Sheep-Pig," he "stayed firmly grounded and was quite unspoiled."

His family said in a statement that King-Smith leaves behind his second wife Zona, three children, 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Pope brings toys, books to kids in Rome hospital

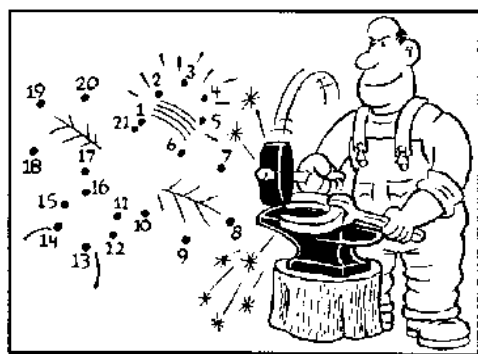
ROME (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI has brought stuffed animals, books and candy to children with spina bifida who are being treated at a Rome hospital.

Benedict brought the gifts to mark Epiphany, when Catholics believe the three kings brought gifts to the newborn Jesus. Benedict told the children and their families that he wanted to be like the kings and give the children gifts to show

his love and affection.

The children, many in wheelchairs, gave Benedict little statues of the three kings and some drawings they'd made. He marveled at the artwork, kissed the children and blessed the babies who were brought to him.

The visit took place Wednesday at Rome's Gemelli hospital, which has a pediatric center for spina bifida, the spinal birth defect.



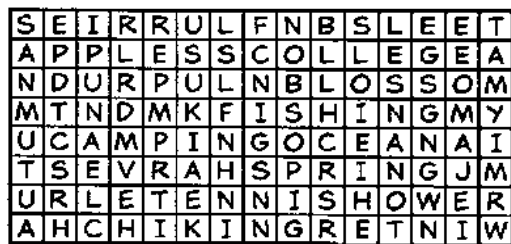
CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what insect a blacksmith manufactures.

Answer: He makes the firefly.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PUZZLE FOR ALL SEASONS!



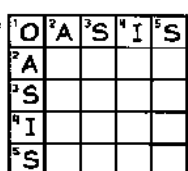
Illustrated by David Coulson

SHAKES, FRIES AND ALPHAMATH! To solve this AlphaMath puzzle, you must replace the letters with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

Our answer: H=7, A=6, R=1, D=2, O=0, C=8, K=3, F=9, S=5 (7612 + 1083 = 8695)

DON'T GO DRY ON THIS ONE! Can you complete the Word Square on the right using the definitions below. All words must read the same both across and down.

1. A refuge (in place).
2. To make embarrassed.
3. Lively and spirited.
4. Set of new stamps.
5. More reserved.



Answers: 1. Oasis 2. Abash 3. Sassy 4. Issue 5. Shyer

Hidden in the diagram above are 19 words pertaining to the four seasons of the year. They can be found reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words that you're looking for.

APPLES	FISHING	SHOWER
AUTUMN	FLURRIES	SLEET
BLOSSOM	FOLIAGE	SPRING
BONFIRE	HARVEST	SUMMER
CAMPING	HIKING	TENNIS
CLEANUP	OCEAN	WINTER
COLLEGE		

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American radio and TV writer and commentator Andy Rooney who made the following sage observation: "Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done."

■ The iconic 1980s video games Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man had 256 levels, though it's been reported that on both of them, the 256th level has bugs that make it unplayable.

■ The earliest known examples of drinking straws were created out of gold and lapis lazuli by the ancient Sumerians. It seems they were used by royalty to drink beer, thereby avoiding the yeast residue left over from the fermentation process.

■ It takes 450 skilled workers to create a Steinway grand piano—and the piano is made up of about 12,000 individual parts.

■ If you are like 83 percent of adult Americans, you received a gift you didn't want during the recent holiday season.

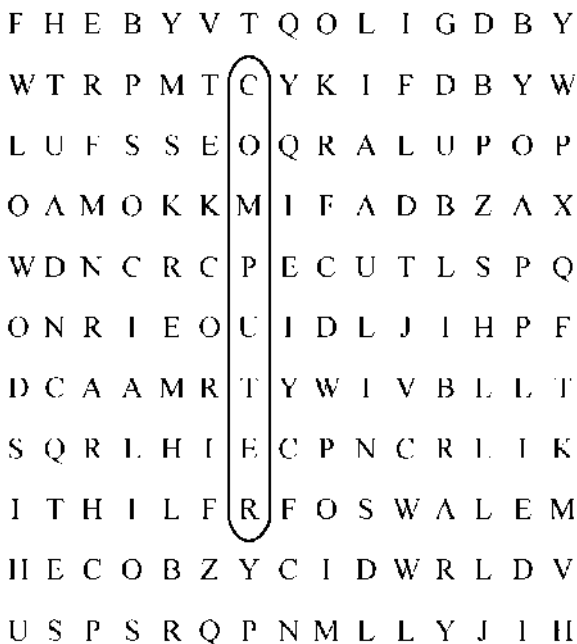
■ If you're a heavy coffee drinker, you might want to consider the following: A study conducted in the United Kingdom found that those who reported the highest consumption of caffeine also were more likely to report hallucinations and other extrasensory experiences.

■ The Campbell's Soup portraits created by Andy Warhol have become icons of the Pop Art movement, and today they sell at auction for upward of \$10 million. They weren't always so well-regarded, however; in 1962, actor Dennis Hopper (a visionary art collector, it seems) purchased one of the first examples for a mere \$75.

Thought for the Day: "I have known a vast quantity of nonsense talked about bad men not looking you in the face. Don't trust that conventional idea. Dishonesty will stare honesty out of countenance, any day in the week, if there is anything to be got by it."—Charles Dickens

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MAGIC MAZE • — SCIENCE



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Applied	Hard	Medical	Rocket
Computer	Laws of	Military	Social
Criminal	Library	Political	Soil
Doctor of	Life	Popular	

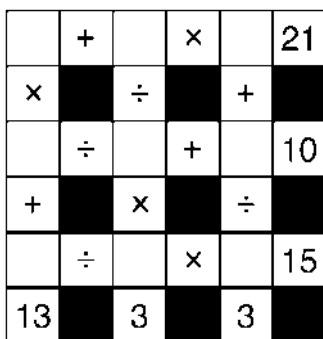
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

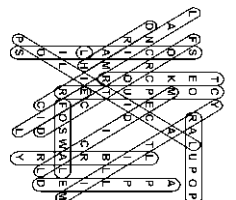
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!



1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

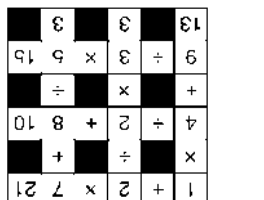
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



SCIENCE

GO FIGURE ANSWER



Putting the kibosh on nuisance barking

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: What is the best way to get my 6-month-old dog, "Kit," to quit nuisance barking, and does Bark Off really work?—Phillip M., via email

DEAR PHILLIP: The best way to address nuisance barking is through daily, attentive training methods. Whether you spring for an ultrasonic "anti-barking" device or something else, the key to reducing or stopping Kit's barking is spending time with him, teaching him not to bark incessantly.

The most common training method to stop unwanted barking is to distract the dog with a noise, a hiss or a sharp "no!" Or, in the case of the device mentioned, an "ultrasonic" noise that does the same thing. No matter how much money you spend or don't spend, that's really the key technique.

But there's more to it. When I say "distract," that doesn't mean just hissing, shaking a can of pennies or pressing an ultrasonic control button from your cozy spot on the couch. I mean, distract immediately, then get up and go to Kit and have him sit and stay for a minute. When he does that, give him lots of praise. Then—and this may sound revolutionary—spend more time with him, training or playing. Just pressing a button and ignoring your dog won't solve the problem. The button you should press when Kit's bark-



ing is the pause button on your DVR.

Kit, at 6 months, is going through a bit of a change, heading into puppy puberty. He's energetic and pushing the envelope. So be firm and consistent with his obedience training, play with him to work off that energy, and set a daily schedule for him—feeding, walks, training, play, sleep—and stick to it. It will take a few weeks to reduce his barking this way, but it's worth it.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Make a Date in 2011

When the four Gustafson kids step off the yellow school bus and through the side door of their home, they step right into family time. With a quick peek at the super-size wall calendar opposite the doorway, they know exactly what's happening. The easy-to-read and fun-to-manipulate calendar lets everyone know at a glance the "who, what, when and where" of family life.

"I highlight the current date to make it easy to visualize what's going on today and what's ahead," says Angela Gustafson, a 41-year-old writer and mom of 12-, 10- and 8-year-old boys and a 6-year-old girl. "The kids like to move the magnets around and talk about the things they are excited to do. It's like a piece of art that's always evolving."

Keeping track of schedules can be a challenge for everyone in active families. This calendar system is a creative way to make sure no important appointment or activity gets lost in the shuffle.

Here's how to create one in your home, and keep it up to date:

1. The key to the Gustafson system is a magnetic chalkboard, available at office supply stores. Before hanging it on a wall, carefully measure and draw a basic calendar grid with 35 squares or boxes. Allow extra space across the top for writing the month and the days of the week. Leave room along the sides to store magnetic backed images. Angela used a permanent silver paint pen for drawing the lines and writing the days of the week.

2. Create eye-catching magnetic images using 8-1/2-by-11-inch magnet sheets or business-card magnets. Cut to size and adhere to the backside of photos, stickers and magazine cutouts. Look for images that relate to activities such as basketball, music lessons, dance or karate. Save business magnets from favorite stores, restaurants and medical offices, too. Trim

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



them down to fit in a square.

3. Attach a magnetic penholder to the side and fill with chalk and non-toxic wet-erase markers, such as Expo Bright Sticks Wet-Erase Fluorescent Markers.

4. At the start of each month, write the number for each day and planned activities. Add magnetic images. It's a great opportunity to talk with young children about the number of days in a week, in a month and even how Feb. 29 sometimes leaps into the picture!

5. At the end of the month, wipe down with a wet washcloth. Another successful month has gone by, and the family gets to set the whole thing up all over again.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Winfrey pleased with OWN network's weekend opening

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says she's "grateful that we weren't embarrassed" during the much-anticipated first weekend that her new OWN network was on the air.

For a network started from scratch, OWN delivered some impressive sampling on its Jan. 1 debut. At one point Saturday night, OWN was the third-ranked cable network behind ESPN and USA in the ratings. The challenge will be turning the curious into regular viewers.

"I am grateful that the first phase of what we wanted to happen actually happened," Winfrey told reporters on Thursday. "I'm grateful that we weren't embarrassed. I'm grateful that people came."

Winfrey called her network's programming "mind food" and



Oprah Winfrey, chairman of Oprah Winfrey Network, makes a point to reporters during a Q&A session at the Discovery Communications Television Critics Association winter press tour in Pasadena, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

Piers Morgan will open show with Winfrey

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Piers Morgan says he's spoiling for a prime-time fight with CNN's rivals—and he'll throw the first punch with Oprah Winfrey.

Winfrey, who is promoting her new OWN cable network, will be the first interview subject when "Piers Morgan Tonight" launches on Jan. 17. The former British tabloid editor said Thursday he interviewed Winfrey for that debut this week in California. Morgan replaces Larry King, whose interview show ended after 25 years last month. He joins CNN at a low ebb, after a year in which Fox News Channel and MSNBC beat the original cable news network in the prime-time ratings.

To that, Morgan said, "I'd like to get to the position ... where the butt-kicking is reversed."

He said CNN needs to be more competitive with its rivals, "much more than we have been."

The brash Brit touted his talk show with plenty of tough talk of his own in a meeting with reporters Thursday, bragging that he made Simon Cowell cry during an interview and suggesting that his interview in Britain with Gordon Brown turned the tide of



Piers Morgan, host of CNN's new interview show "Piers Morgan Tonight," poses for a portrait backstage during the Turner Broadcasting Television Critics Association winter press tour in Pasadena, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

the election for prime minister in Brown's favor. He said he wants to be polarizing.

"He's really not this annoying," said his executive producer, Jonathan Wald, suggesting his star was in promo mode and not as combative during actual interviews.

In fact, Morgan said his typical interview technique is to try and get a laugh off the top, to seal a connection between him and the subject. He also promises to knock his subject on the heels with questions

they never expected.

In Winfrey's case, that was when Morgan asked "how many times have you properly been in love?" He wouldn't reveal the answer.

Wald said that through Morgan's interviews, the show will be reaching for the "middle lane of American popular culture, the intersection of interesting and important."

Morgan said he hoped that viewers watch the interviews and "feel exhilarated, feel excited."

The extent to which the

"America's Got Talent" panelist hopes to get people talking was revealed in the first 30 seconds of his news conference, where he continued a feud of unknown origin with Madonna, promising she'll be banned from his show.

"Lady Gaga is half her age and twice as good looking, twice as hot," he said. "Why would I bother with Madonna, anyway?"

The New York-based show will originate from London for a week this spring surrounding the Royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The former London media mogul said his experience there made him uniquely suited to covering the story.

Morgan would seem handicapped by having the low-rated "Parker-Spitzer" precede him on CNN's lineup. But Wald said that if they put on a good show, it will draw viewers regardless of what else is happening on CNN's schedule.

"One day you're the cock of the walk and the next you're a feather duster," Morgan said. "I sincerely hope it will be the former as we move on to CNN."

She said she didn't truly understand the work that would be involved in starting the network—and needed her partners at Discovery Communications Inc. to point that out to her. She said she didn't expect to take a vacation in three years.

"It was not actually until we were on the air that I fully started to grasp what it means to have a network where you are the OW of OWN," she said.

Winfrey did, however, disappoint the first reporter to ask her a question on Thursday.

"Are we all going to get cars?" the reporter asked.

Nope.

Conspiracy convictions tossed in Anna Nicole case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a prolonged, costly prosecution that put Anna Nicole Smith's prescription drug use under a legal microscope, a judge dismissed two conspiracy convictions Thursday against her boyfriend-lawyer and psychiatrist and reduced one remaining count against the doctor to a misdemeanor.

It was an ignominious ending for prosecutors who had touted the high-profile case as a way to send a message to physicians who over-prescribe opiates to celebrities.

Superior Court Judge Robert Perry suggested authorities had chosen the wrong case to prove their point, and indicated they did not understand the legislative intent of the law involving prescription drugs.

"The court has no doubt that abuse of prescription medications is a troubling problem for many persons," Perry said in his ruling. "There is no doubt that there are doctors who are nothing more than pill pushers and should be prosecuted and imprisoned. This case did not involve such doctors."

The judge noted that the California Patients Bill of Rights passed in 2006 recognized the concept of the "pseudo addict," which is defined as "a person whose drug seeking behavior is primarily due to the inadequate control of pain."

The judge, citing testimony about Smith's quest for pain relief, said, "I certainly believed she was not an addict under the law."

After a three-week preliminary hearing and a nine-week trial, jurors returned guilty verdicts on few of the 11 charges against the three original defendants.

Howard K. Stern, 41, and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, 63, were convicted of conspiring to violate the false name statute to obtain painkillers for the former Playboy model. Eroshevich also was convicted of obtaining Vicodin by fraud.

Dr. Sandeep Kapoor was acquitted of all the charges against him.

Perry said he considered the minimal jury verdicts "a strong repudiation of the prosecution's case," which he described as overly complicated and not supported by sufficient evidence.

During the trial, he said he saw weaknesses in the case but decided to let it go to the jury.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said he would appeal the dismissals.

"His decision denigrates the substantial investigative efforts conducted by the state Department of Justice and the medical board," Cooley said in a written statement. "It diminishes the huge so-

cial problem of prescription drug abuse facilitated by irresponsible caretakers and unscrupulous medical professionals."

The case was launched last year amid much fanfare by then-California Attorney General and now-Gov. Jerry Brown, who denounced the defendants as conspirators in over-prescribing prescription drugs to Smith, whom he called "a known addict." He also accused the defendants of being lured by Hollywood glamor.

Judge Perry acknowledged Smith's celebrity status and said, "In our media-driven society, there is a strong interest on the part of celebrities for privacy." He added that the use of prescription drugs can be misinterpreted by the public and can harm a celebrity's career.

The judge found that Stern never had the intent to defraud when he used his name and others to protect Smith's privacy in obtaining prescriptions for her.

Perry also found that Eroshevich was acting out of concern for Smith and cited her long medical career and service to the community in deciding to sentence her to no more than one year of probation and a \$100 fine for obtaining one Vicodin prescription under a false name.

"The evidence is that Howard Stern did not have an intent to break the law," Perry said in dismissing the conspiracy convictions against Stern.

Without Stern's participation, the judge said, there was no conspiracy between him and Eroshevich, and he dismissed those counts against her as well. The ruling marked the denouement of the long-running drama centering on the blonde beauty's troubled life, which was documented on reality TV, in tabloids and in trial testimony.

Smith also made headlines in a continuing court fight with the estate of her oil tycoon husband. Smith died of an accidental drug overdose in February, 2007, but the defendants were not charged with causing her death.

Stern said he was thinking of Smith, his lost love, when the judge announced his decision.

"I was looking up in the sky and thinking, she's vindicated," Stern said.

He said he was pleased that Perry recognized Smith was a victim of chronic pain, not addiction.

Eroshevich also said she was happy with the outcome.

"I can live with the misdemeanor," she said. "I don't want to be a martyr. Everyone makes mistakes."

Stern and Eroshevich could have lost their professional licenses if their felony convictions stood.

said the intention is to bring positive energy into the homes of people who watch it.

"I see myself as a messenger for a message that is greater than myself and my message is you can, you can, you can," she said.

OWN announced on Thursday that personal finance expert Suze Orman would be getting her own prime-time show this fall. The series, "Money Class," will feature Orman visiting individuals and families across the country to give them advice on their own financial circumstances.

OWN highlighted a handful of its new programs on Thursday, including a competition where 10

contestants (out of 15,000 applicants) are vying for the chance to host their own show. "Survivor" producer Mark Burnett, who is producing the competition, has committed to producing six episodes of the winner's show.

It's a diverse group of panelists, including an obese chef who wants to do a cooking show that illustrates his effort to get back into shape, a disabled man who wants a show on overcoming obstacles he faces traveling around the world and a prospective variety show host who wants to be "America's gay best friend."

Lisa Ling's new series, "Our America," shows her profiling

3rd witness says frantic Jackson doc gathered meds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors called a third witness Thursday who described frantic efforts by the doctor charged in Michael Jackson's death to gather medication from the floor of the bedroom where the singer died after receiving intravenous doses of a powerful anesthetic.

Paramedic Martin Blount testified at a preliminary hearing that Dr. Conrad Murray scooped up three vials of the painkiller lidocaine moments after the doctor said he hadn't given the superstar any medications.

In addition, Blount and Richard Senneff, another experienced paramedic, said Murray never mentioned giving Jackson the anesthetic propofol and told them the singer lost consciousness moments before 911 was called. Both witnesses thought the singer was dead by the time they arrived at his mansion on June 25, 2009.

Authorities contend Murray gave Jackson a lethal dose of propofol and other sedatives then tried to conceal his actions by hiding the medications and not telling paramedics and emergency room doctors about the drugs.

A judge will decide after the hearing if there is enough evidence for Murray to stand trial for involuntary manslaughter. He has pleaded not guilty, and his attorneys have said Murray did not give Jackson anything that should have killed him.

Bodyguard Alberto Alvarez testified earlier that Murray told him to place several vials of medicine and an IV bag into other bags before calling 911.

The three witnesses were the first people to encounter Murray and Jackson in the bedroom.



LaToya Jackson arrives for the preliminary hearing for Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray, charged in the death of the singer, at Los Angeles Superior Court Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

"I saw three small bottles of lidocaine," Blount testified. "He scooped them off the floor and put them into a black bag."

Murray also produced a hypodermic needle at one point and wanted to use it on the singer, but Blount and other paramedics refused, according to the testimony.

A defense attorney did not question Blount about the lidocaine vials.

Prosecutors also introduced Murray's cell phone records as evidence, showing the 911 call summoning paramedics was made at 12:21 p.m. Murray also made a phone call in the ambulance as Jackson's body was being transported to UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center.

That two-minute call was to

Murray's girlfriend, Nicole Alvarez, who might testify Friday. Emergency room Dr. Richelle Cooper testified that she was never told that Jackson had been given propofol and other sedatives. Murray said only the sedative lorazepam had been given, Cooper said.

Murray's defense attorney, J. Michael Flanagan, asked Cooper if propofol use would be relevant information, since the drug wears off quickly.

Cooper said it might have changed her actions due to concerns about its possible interaction with other drugs in Jackson's system.

Murray was present in the emergency room when Cooper and others tried to revive the pop singer for more than an

hour. Notes indicated someone reported a faint pulse in Jackson's leg, but Cooper said she could not confirm it.

Jackson was pronounced dead at the hospital at 2:26 p.m., but Cooper testified she had previously given paramedics authorization to pronounce Jackson dead at his home.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said in his opening statement that Jackson was already dead when Murray summoned help and tried to conceal his administering of propofol to the pop star.

Blount and Senneff said they were never able to find a viable heartbeat in Jackson in his bedroom, but transported him to the hospital because Murray agreed to take over treatment.

Lohan investigation referred to district attorney

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's up to the Riverside County district attorney's office to decide whether Lindsay Lohan will be charged with battery for last month's skirmish with a Betty Ford Center rehabilitation technician.

John Hall, spokesman for the district attorney's office, said findings from the Palm Desert Police Department's probe into Lohan's alleged skirmish with rehab worker Dawn Holland were received Thursday. Hall said his office was waiting for additional material from investigators and did not know when a decision would be made.

Lohan is accused of tussling with Holland after the 24-year-old actress returned to the rehab

center past curfew on Dec. 12 and refused Holland's request to take a Breathalyzer test. Riverside County Sheriff's said in a news release Tuesday that she violated her probation and wanted her charged with battery, though Holland is no longer pursuing charges.

Shawn Chapman Holley, Lohan's attorney, did not immediately return messages seeking comment Thursday. After Internet reports surfaced claiming that Lohan was under the influence during the altercation,

► In this May 24, 2010 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan arrives at the Beverly Hills Courthouse in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Holley insisted in a statement Wednesday that Lohan didn't drink alcohol or do drugs during her 90-day stint at Betty Ford.

Lohan was released from the drug dependency center, about 120 miles (190 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, this week after receiving treatment there since late September in connection with her 3 1/2 year-old drunken driving case. The Beverly Hills judge overseeing Lohan's probation required her to remain at the rehab center until Monday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox has said Lohan will be jailed if she violates probation. Her next scheduled hearing before the judge is Feb. 25.



Jaime Pressly arrested for drunken driving

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in California say actress Jaime Pressly has been arrested in Santa Monica for investigation of driving under

◀ In this Aug. 27, 2006, file photo, actress Jaime Pressly poses for photographers as she arrives at the post-E Emmy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

the influence of alcohol. Lt. Darrell Lowe says the co-star of TV's "My Name is Earl" was stopped for a traffic violation around 11 p.m. Wednesday and booked on suspicion of DUI but he's not releasing any details.

Lowe says no traffic collision was involved.

Pressly's blood-alcohol level

wasn't immediately released.

The Los Angeles County sheriff's website says the 33-year-old actress-model spent the night in jail and was released Thursday morning after posting \$15,000 bail.

An e-mail to her manager seeking comment wasn't immediately returned.

Grandfather's bad timing mars a perfect wedding

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently married a wonderful man. Our wedding day was going perfectly and I had all the family I loved around me—including my divorced grandparents.

My grandfather has remarried, but still had a lot of unfinished legal business with Grandma that needed settling. Grandpa thought my wedding reception would be a good place to do it and served her with court papers there.

I was so upset that he would do this on my special day, I have stopped talking to him. He dropped by my mom's one day and I ignored him. He told me if I wanted to "divorce" him as my grandfather I could, but that he wasn't wrong and wouldn't apologize for it.

Please tell me what you think. Am I wrong for expecting him to apologize to me for what he did?

NEW IOWA BRIDE

DEAR NEW BRIDE: Your grandfather owes all concerned that day an apology. His judgment was atrocious. But please don't hold your breath waiting for him to offer one. Your grandfather is self-centered, self-righteous, insensitive and stubborn, and it won't be forthcoming.

DEAR ABBY: When my wife and I go to a buffet for lunch or dinner, she takes too much food on purpose to take home with her. I say it's wrong because you pay for what you eat, not what you "carry out." She insists that paying means she can take whatever amount she wants.

The last time we went, she actually waited for more chicken to be brought out so she could put three pieces in a napkin before we left. Now she's mad at me because I told her it was wrong. I'll live by what you say, Abby. What is it?

CRYING "FOWL" IN LAKEWOOD, CALIF.

DEAR CRYING "FOWL": Your wife isn't mad at you because you told her what she did was wrong. She's pouting because she doesn't want to admit that you were right—that she was pulling a fast one and you didn't approve. If all the patrons behaved as she does, the restaurant would not be able to break even, let alone make a profit. Her behavior was not just tacky; it showed a distinct lack of character.

DEAR ABBY: What do you think of a person who makes fun of others about various "shortcomings" (e.g., being computer illiterate) while she knows little about these subjects herself? I am weary of listening to her whining voice belittling others. She's always talking about how "stupid" this person is, and how "dumb" that person is.

The individual I'm describing is my mother. Growing up, I didn't know differently. But as an adult and a mother myself, I cringe when she says these things. My 10-year-old daughter has asked me why Grandma makes fun of people. Is my mother a bully?

NAILS ON A BLACKBOARD

DEAR NAILS: Yes, she is. She's also someone who is trying to make herself appear superior to those she disparages. Use her poor example to teach your daughter what an unattractive personality trait it is—although from your letter, she appears to have already concluded that herself. You have a wise and discerning child who obviously does not take after her grandmother. And I'm sure that's because of your good influence. I salute you.

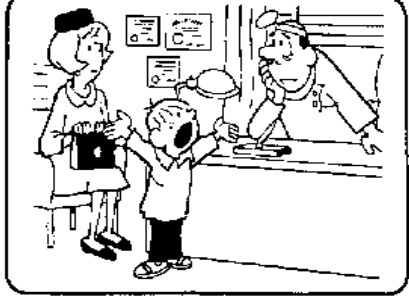
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



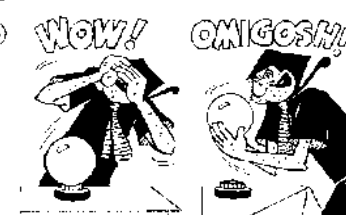
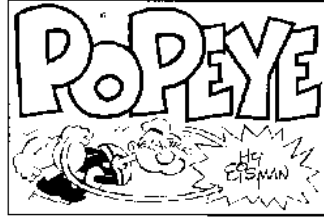
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Wishing Well®

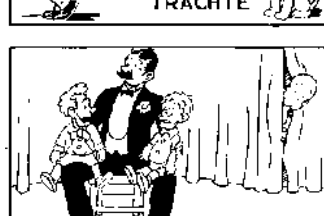
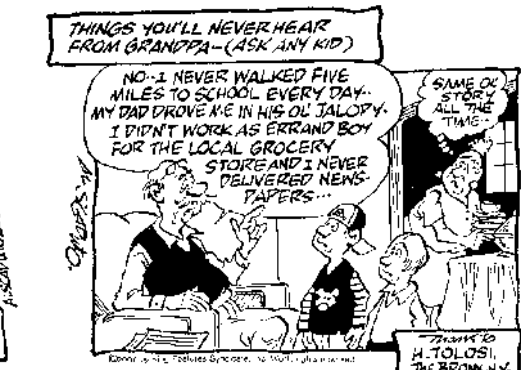
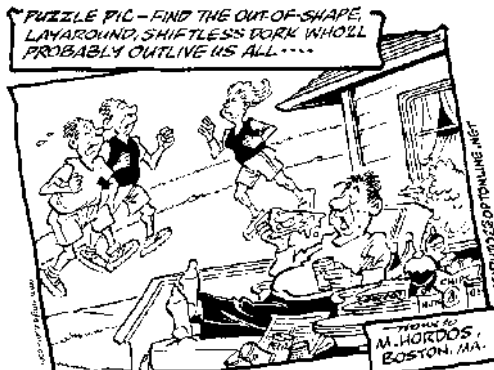
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3	8	3	2	5	3	5	2	6	8	4	2	3
E	A	V	N	D	E	I	C	E	I	I	E	A
4	3	4	6	8	4	5	8	5	8	3	4	8
F	L	I	F	N	E	D	E	G	E	D	E	R
7	3	8	5	6	8	6	8	6	8	7	6	7
O	D	I	A	E	A	N	L	D	S	M	S	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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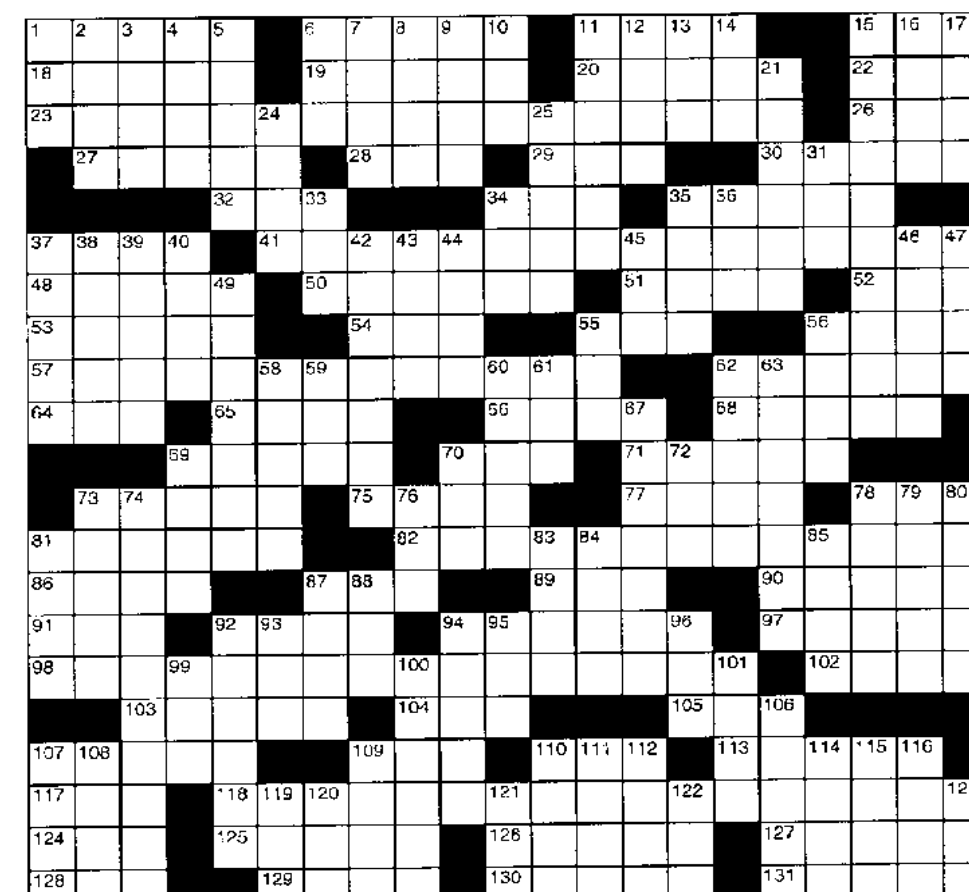


They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword CENTENNIAL

- ACROSS
- 1 "Home ---" (90 film)
 - 6 Faithful
 - 11 Elated
 - 15 Tighten the tent
 - 18 Nigerian city
 - 19 Actress Vercugo
 - 20 Paddled
 - 22 Multi-purpose vehicle
 - 23 Photography event of 1900
 - 26 "Unforget- table" name
 - 27 Snicker sound
 - 28 Mexican Mrs.
 - 29 Have a mortgage
 - 30 Attack
 - 32 Sniggler's quarry
 - 34 Baseball's Piniella
 - 35 TV's "Green ---"
 - 37 Young follower?
 - 41 Literary event of 1900
 - 48 Roberts or Tucker
 - 50 Only just
 - 51 Olympic VIP
 - 52 Med. test
 - 53 Take in, perhaps
 - 54 Big bang letters
 - 55 Distress
 - 56 Terror
 - 57 Exhibition event of 1900
 - 62 Solidarity city
 - 64 Welcor or Wray
 - 65 And others
 - 66 Utah city
 - 68 Way to go
 - 69 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'---
 - 70 Queller or Arden
 - 71 Heavenly hunter
 - 73 Melir's successor
 - 75 Knight's wife
 - 77 Clasp
 - 78 Scale notes
 - 81 Ease a situation
 - 82 Musical event of 1900
 - 86 Huck's craft
 - 87 Service div.
 - 89 "Doll" (64 hit)
 - 90 Urania's sister
 - 91 Skater Midori
 - 92 Act caty?
 - 94 Anesthetic type
 - 97 Object
 - 98 Transportation event of 1900
 - 102 90 Across' instrument
 - 103 Moshe of Israel
 - 104 Shady character?
 - 105 High peak
 - 107 Multivoiced Mel
 - 109 Coach Farsegian
 - 110 Favorite
 - 113 --- terrier
 - 117 Massage
 - 118 Culinary event of 1900
 - 124 Every last bit
 - 125 Humpback's home
 - 126 Luncheon-ette lure
 - 127 Gawk
 - 128 Payao e
 - 129 Makes lace
 - 130 Actor Gary
 - 131 Detection device
- DOWN
- 1 TV ET
 - 2 Cafe au ---
 - 3 Fairy-tale fiend
 - 4 Snack
 - 5 Cosmeti- cian Lauder
 - 6 Papal name
 - 7 Auto pioneer
 - 8 Century
 - 9 "Lonely Boy" singer
 - 10 Research site
 - 11 Become an adult
 - 12 Rob of "Wayne's World"
 - 13 Barley beard
 - 14 "Agnus ---"
 - 15 Word in a Dostoyevsky title
 - 16 Coup d'---
 - 17 See 115 Down
 - 21 Rubble
 - 24 Boat bottom
 - 25 Commodious
 - 31 Guitarist Paul
 - 33 Tennis stroke
 - 34 "--- Abner"
 - 35 Cain's victim
 - 36 Actor Gulager
 - 37 Rod
 - 38 Actress Shire
 - 39 Threshold
 - 40 Bread and booze
 - 42 Upset
 - 43 Bond foe
 - 44 New York team
 - 45 "Raid on Entebbe"
 - 46 Rub out
 - 47 Dogarde or segment
 - 49 Apollo's sister
 - 55 Veneration
 - 56 Hawthorne's was marble
 - 58 Make amends
 - 59 Mideastern letters
 - 60 Fly a chopper
 - 61 Trams transport it
 - 62 Barbecue
 - 63 Drew while distracted
 - 67 Connect out native
 - 69 Border on
 - 70 Aussie walker
 - 72 Hugo's "Le --- s'amuse"
 - 73 Lasso
 - 74 Pricec right
 - 76 Canine grp.
 - 78 Full of froth
 - 79 Pianist Schnabel
 - 80 A little night music?
 - 81 Wet blanket
 - 83 Junket
 - 84 Fade away
 - 85 Songwriter Jacques
 - 87 English architect
 - 88 --- deco
 - 92 '60 Hitchcock classic
 - 93 Actress Thurman
 - 94 Like some energy
 - 95 Petra pooch
 - 96 Thompson or Salonga
 - 99 Rocker Whitcomb
 - 100 August shows
 - 101 534. to Tiber us
 - 106 Preserve a pet. nia
 - 107 Nail type
 - 108 Berg opera
 - 109 Blind as ---
 - 110 Callao's country
 - 111 Desire deified
 - 112 Use a stopwatch
 - 114 Division word
 - 115 With 17 Down, famed saxophonist
 - 116 51 Across' missis
 - 119 Pretend
 - 120 "Cry ---" (55 song)
 - 121 Yak
 - 122 Aye opponent
 - 123 Augsburg article



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. ANATOMY: Where in the human body is the mandible?
- 2. MYTHOLOGY: According to Greek mythology, who ferries the souls of the dead across the rivers Styx and Acheron?
- 3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: By what common name is the pirate's flag of skull and cross-

- bones known?
- 4. ENTERTAINERS: Which actress was born with the name Betty Joan Perske?
- 5. MEASUREMENTS: What does a tachometer measure?
- 6. HISTORY: What was the first year of the winter Olympic Games?
- 7. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Valley Forge, site of George Washington's encampment during the Revolutionary War?
- 8. ASTRONOMY: Europa is a

- moon of which planet?
- 9. LITERATURE: Who wrote "The Tropic of Cancer"?
- 10. LANGUAGE: In poetic terms, what is a "tarn"?

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- 6. 1924
- 5. Speed in rotations per minute
- 4. Lauren Bacall
- 3. Jolly Roger
- 2. Charon
- 1. Lower jaw
- 7. Pennsylvania
- 8. Jupiter
- 9. Henry Miller
- 10. Mountain lake



The Spats by Jeff Pickering



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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Durant, Westbrook lead Thunder past Mavs

NBA BRIEFS

2 Heat, 2 Celtics on pace to earn All-Star starts

NEW YORK (AP)—LeBron James and Dwyane Wade of the Heat and Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo of the Celtics are on pace to be voted as starters for the NBA All-Star game. Garnett and Rondo remained in second place at their positions behind the Heat duo in the third voting returns announced Thursday. Orlando center Dwight Howard is the other leader among Eastern Conference players and has the most votes of any player in the conference. The Lakers' Kobe Bryant is the top overall vote-getter for the game in his home Staples Center on Feb. 20. The Hornets' Chris Paul at the other guard and Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant and Denver's Carmelo Anthony at forward are the other West leaders, while Houston's Yao Ming has a sizable lead at center despite being out for the season with a foot injury. Boosted by the huge on-line vote total he receives from fans in his native China, Yao was voted as a starter the first seven years of his career, from 2003-09. He was not on the ballot last season, when he was out for the year with an injury. If an injured player is voted to start, Commissioner David Stern chooses an injury replacement for the roster and the conference's coach tabs a reserve to start. Starters will be announced Jan. 27.

Cavs' Gibson hurts ankle

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson has a sprained ankle. He did not travel with the team as it embarked on a five-game road trip. Gibson was injured during the third quarter of Wednesday's 120-105 loss to Toronto, the Cavaliers' eighth straight and 18th in 19 games. It's not yet known how long Gibson, averaging 13.7 points, will be sidelined. He had just returned after missing two games with a thigh injury. Gibson's injury is another blow to the Cavaliers, who at 8-27, have the worst record in the Eastern Conference. Forward Leon Powe also did not leave with the team because of a knee bruise. Cleveland is at Golden State on Friday.

Mavs' Nowitzki misses 6th straight game

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas scoring leader Dirk Nowitzki missed the Mavericks' 99-95 loss to Oklahoma on Thursday night because of a sprained right knee. Nowitzki is day-to-day and there had been speculation that he might try to play against the Thunder. Nowitzki has been shooting at practices, but sat out his sixth consecutive game. Nowitzki is averaging 24.1 points. On Tuesday, the Mavericks learned that No. 3 scorer Caron Butler will probably miss the rest of the season because of a torn tendon in his right knee.



DALLAS (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 28 points, Russell Westbrook had 15 points and nine assists and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the short-handed Dallas Mavericks 99-95 on Thursday night.

Jeff Green had 16 points and nine rebounds, and Serge Ibaka added with 13 points and eight rebounds.

Shawn Marion had a season-high 25 points for the Mavericks, who were without top scorer Dirk Nowitzki for a career-high sixth straight game with a sprained right knee. Tyson Chandler added 14 points and matched a season high with 18 rebounds. Jason Terry had 19 points for Dallas, 2-4 during Nowitzki's absence.

Nowitzki is day-to-day and there had been speculation that he might try to play against the Thunder. The nine-time All-Star, averaging 24.1 points, has been shooting at practices.

Dallas also is missing No. 3 scorer Caron Butler, out for the season with a torn tendon in his right knee.

The Mavericks won the first two matchups between the teams this season, both in Oklahoma City, in the series that concluded Thursday. Nowitzki was hurt in the second meeting Dec. 27.

Dallas was in front by 10 in the first half, but Oklahoma City opened the third quarter with an 11-4 run, capped by Green's 8-footer for a 62-59 edge.

Oklahoma City had a 73-70 advantage heading into the fourth quarter, and Durant's 3-pointer with 9:54 left extended the Thunder's lead to 78-71.

Durant stole the ball from Terry and went in for a dunk with 5:43 left to put



Houston Rockets' Yao Ming, of China, wears a protective boot on his left foot as he looks up at the scoreboard during the first quarter of an NBA game against the Washington Wizards basketball game Monday, Dec. 27, 2010, in Houston.



Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant (35) pumps his fist after sinking a 3-pointer against the Dallas Mavericks in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011, in Dallas.

Yao Ming has ankle surgery, weighs options

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets center Yao Ming underwent surgery Thursday to repair a stress fracture in his left ankle, a procedure he says may end his career.

The 7-foot-6 Yao has been out since Nov. 10, and played in only five games this season before the team declared him lost for the season. The seven-time All-Star missed all of last season following reconstructive foot surgery.

"I know this will be another long rehab," the 30-year-old Yao said in a statement. "But I'm looking forward to beginning my recovery. I will use this time to consider all of my options, and will make a decision regarding my career plans as I get closer to the end of my rehab."

Team doctor Tom Clanton performed the procedure in Houston.

The Rockets drafted Yao with the top overall pick in 2002, but his NBA career has been derailed by a rash of injuries, mostly to his left foot and ankle.

"You hope this is the last surgery for him," forward Shane Battier said. "Good lord. That guy's seen more hospital beds than Florence Nightingale. You feel terrible for him. For being such a big guy

and a hard worker, he deserves a break. We hope this surgery is successful and he recovers quickly."

His contract with Houston expires after this season, and the Rockets are still awaiting word from the league if they'll be granted a disabled player salary exception for Yao. That would allow Houston to acquire a free agent, or trade for a player without having to match salaries, up to the value of the midlevel exception (about \$5.75 million).

The league granted Houston the same disabled player exception for Yao in 2009, and the Rockets used that money (about \$5.7 million) to sign swingman Trevor Ariza. Houston traded Ariza to New Orleans after one season as part of a four-team deal that brought Courtney Lee to the Rockets.

Houston is 16-19 heading into Friday's game at Orlando.

Yao missed only two games in his first three seasons. The injury problems began in the 2005-06 season, when he missed 21 games with an infection in his left big toe. He broke his left foot late in the season, and missed the last four games.

He played in 77 regular-season games

his team ahead, 89-78.

Dallas was unable to get closer than four points the rest of the way.

The Mavericks held a 55-51 halftime lead behind Marion's 21 points. Marion was 10 for 12 from the field in the opening half while Dallas went 24 for 41 from the floor.

Kings 122, Nugget 102

In Sacramento, Calif., Tyreke Evans had 27 points and a season-high 12 assists to help the Sacramento Kings rout the Denver Nuggets.

The Kings had a 23-2 run midway through the second half to build a 21-point lead in their highest-scoring game of the season. They shot 56 percent and gave coach Paul Westphal his 300th career victory.

DeMarcus Cousins scored 20 points, Beno Udrih had 17, Carl Landry 14 and Omri Casspi 13 for the Kings.

Carmelo Anthony had 26 points for Denver. The Nuggets, coming off a 106-93 road loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night, committed 23 turnovers.

Nene added 17 points for Denver, Chauncey Billups had 16 and Al Harrington 15.

Evans, the NBA rookie of the year last season, penetrated on drives to the basket and made 11 of 18 shots, hit all five free throws and added five rebounds.

After ending the third quarter on a 12-2 run, the Kings scored the first 11 points of the fourth. A fast-break dunk by Casspi gave Sacramento a 102-81 lead at the 8:50 mark.

After squandering their entire 14-point halftime lead and allowing Denver to tie it, the Kings ran off 12 straight points late in the third quarter.

Udrih scored eight points and Evans had six in the third to give the Kings a 91-81 lead.

Trailing by 14 points at the half, the Nuggets got going in the third quarter behind Anthony. After a subpar first half, Anthony made all five shots and scored 12 points, including a jumper to tie it at 79.

in 2008-09, but then sustained a hairline fracture in his foot that required complex surgery.

The Rockets carefully monitored his minutes coming into this season, but Yao was injured in Houston's 98-91 loss to the Washington Wizards on Nov. 10.

When Yao was injured, team physician Walter Lowe said surgery was the usual treatment—and that it could keep Yao off the court for up to 10 months.

"You knew it was coming," coach Rick Adelman said. "You just hope, with the surgery, that he can get back to where he can walk around and be ready to make whatever decision he needs to make at that point."

"You've got to feel for him," Adelman said. "But it's sounds like something he had to do, if he ever wants to play again, or if he ever wants to have a quality of life. That's the approach he's taking right now, and when he rehabilitates a little bit, we'll see where he goes from there."

In all, Yao has sat out 91 games in four seasons spanning 2005-09. He missed only five games in the 2008-09 season, then broke his left foot in the playoffs.

Byrd, Pettersson share first-round lead



KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Jonathan Byrd and Carl Pettersson

son didn't miss a beat in the PGA Tour opener Thursday, both enjoying the views and surprisingly calm conditions in the Tournament of Champions to share the lead at 7-under 66.

That wasn't the case for others.

Kapalua was missing its two-time defending champion when Geoff Ogilvy had to withdraw with 12 stitches in his right finger, making him the first defending champ in 50 years to miss the winners-only event.

Stuart Appleby was missing his putter. It wasn't in the bag when he showed up Thursday morning, and he sent caddie Scott Sajtinac to a nearby golf shop to get the closest he could find. With the price tag still glued to the shaft, Appleby opened with a 69.

Jim Furyk was missing a playing partner when Ogilvy withdrew, so he brought along Scott Carroll as a marker. The popular head pro at Kapalua got the loudest ovation of anyone on the first tee.

Above all, the Plantation Course was missing its notorious wind, which allowed for a gentle start to the PGA Tour season.

"It's quite an adjustment going out there with no wind," Byrd said.

It was Byrd's first tournament since he qualified for the Tournament of Champions by winning in Las Vegas with the best finish of the year, a hole-in-one in a three-man playoff. After making five birdies on the front nine, Byrd holed out another shot. This was only a wedge from 111 yards that caught the grain perfectly and rolled sideways about 4 feet and into the cup.

If the only the rest of the day could have gone as well.

"From there on, got a little shaky," Byrd said. "I didn't play great for about a three- or four-hole stretch."

Ben Crane was a stroke behind the leaders. He played bogey-free in the calm, overcast conditions with the sun trying to break through the clouds but never quite succeeding.

Furyk, one of only three players to have won at Kapalua still in the field, also got off to a quick start before he stalled and had to settle for a 5-under 68, leaving him tied with Bill Haas and Charley Hoffman.

Joining Appleby in the group at 69 was Anthony Kim, determined to plot his way through

Jonathan Byrd follows his drive from the third tee during the first round of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Kapalua, Hawaii Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

AP



each round at each tournament, and doing a pretty good job of it except for the par-3 eighth. He chose a 4-iron, then changed his shot at the top of his swing and pulled it into the high weeds to take a double bogey.

"All of a sudden, I decided to try to make birdie—from 215 yards away," Kim said. "Mental error. I committed to every shot I hit today except for that one."

Bubba Watson hit the longest tee shot on the 18th during a long drive competition Wednesday, and his driver again was the key club on the finishing hole Thursday—only this one was a driver off the fairway, setting up a 10-foot eagle putt for a 70.

The conditions were so serene that a dozen players shot in the 60s, and only two players failed to break par. One of them was Rocco Mediate, who made the turn in 41 and shot 79. The other was Justin Rose at 75.

Ernie Els, who set the tournament record in 2003 with a 31-under 261, opened with back-to-back bogeys and rallied to get back into the game until a three-putt bogey on the final hole for a 1-under 72.

Pettersson qualified by winning the Canadian Open, but he wasn't satisfied with the way his year ended. Instead of shutting it down when he returned from the HSBC Champions in China, he went to work. Pettersson spent the last two months playing golf just about every day, whether that meant practicing for one hour or five hours, playing with buddies in North Carolina or taking golf trips to Florida.

"Probably worked harder on my game this offseason than I've done any other offseason," he said.

The course can play a little longer without wind. Pettersson usually hits a 6-iron into the 554-yard 17th hole, which is downhill with the

trade wind typical helping. He had to hammer a hybrid Thursday, an example of how different Kapalua felt.

Even so, not man were begging for the wind to return.

"I've been here since Sunday, and every day it has blown a little bit different direction, which messes with you a little bit," Haas said. "But I'm happy. I hope it stays like this all week."

Appleby is going to stick with his new putter.

He's not sure what happened to the old one, but his instructions to Sajtinac were simple.

"I told him to get me an Odyssey putter," Appleby said, the brand he normally uses. "If you get me an Odyssey putter, I'll know what to do with it."

So what happens if he finds his old putter after opening with a 69?

"That's how you really torment a golfer," Appleby said.

Cowboys pick Jason Garrett as 8th head coach



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—About 10 minutes into his tenure as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, Jason Garrett had to step aside. Team owner Jerry Jones had something to say.

Garrett had been asked how much authority he would have over choosing his coaching staff and Jones wanted to be the one who answered. It seemed like business as usual for the Cowboys.

Only, it wasn't.

"Jason will have the final say on any person that leaves the coaching staff or comes to the coaching staff," Jones said. "There won't be a player on this team that Jason does not want on the team. ... That's the way we're going to operate."

So Jones didn't just change coaches Thursday. He changed his way of doing business. He ceded power and declared the start of a new era, one that could last for a while—maybe not 29 years like Tom Landry's tenure, but something along those lines. Garrett is 44 and received a four-year contract.

"You can dream that the thing is in place long term because of his age and, frankly, his background and experience," Jones said.

Another overwhelming factor is the bond already forged between the Jones and Garrett families.

At least one Garrett has been with the Cowboys for 20 of the 22 seasons that Jones has owned the club.

Jason Garrett just finished his 12th year as a player or coach. His dad, Jim, was a scout when

Jones bought the team in 1989 until retiring in 2004. Jason's brother, John, is the tight ends coach and another brother, Judd, is director of pro scouting. In 2007, Judd's wife died suddenly and Jones lent the Garrett family his plane for multiple trips; Judd worked for the Rams then.

When Jason's wife, Brill, arrived at Thursday's news conference, she was greeted with hugs and kisses from Jones' wife, Gene, and their daughter, Charlotte Anderson. They also made space for her to sit between them.

Sure, there's been excitement, optimism and affection every time the Joneses have welcomed a new coach and his wife to the Cowboys family. But, again, the difference is the Garretts already have been part of the clan.

"I'm just so comfortable with him," Jones said. "I know him so well. ... The thing that I want you to understand is how much I value his judgment."

Jones said it was important for him to make this public announcement of Garrett's authority.

"I wanted to make sure our fans knew the extent of his power," Jones said. "Let's not be naive. You know that I'm criticized for basically making decisions in areas where fans and other people would like coaches to make. ... That's the reason that I'm being as definitive as I am about this."

Garrett avoided directly answering whether he requested such decision-making power. Jones said it is not written into the contract.

"Ultimately, we're going to feel good about the

decisions we make as an organization," Garrett said. "We'll communicate, we have very similar football values and we'll come to the right conclusions together."

Garrett already has made one executive decision: He will remain the offensive coordinator.

Garrett becomes the eighth coach in club history and the first to also have played for the Cowboys. He was a backup to Troy Aikman in the 1990s, then played for the Giants and Dolphins. Jones joked that he "stayed mad about him for about two years because he wouldn't let me sell him on quit playing and start coaching now when he went to the Giants."

Garrett got into coaching with Miami. In 2007, Jones interviewed him to become head coach and was so smitten he hired him to an undisclosed position. It turned out to be offensive coordinator under Wade Phillips.

Since then, Garrett had chances to become head coach of other teams. He turned them down, making it clear this was where he wanted to be. Jones rewarded him with the title of assistant head coach and one of the top-paying contracts in the league.

Dallas opened this season with Super Bowl hopes then quickly fell apart. At 1-7, Jones fired Phillips and gave Garrett his audition.

He took over as if he owned the place.

He started the workday earlier, added hitting to midweek practices, required players to jog between drills and cracked down on rules, includ-

ing ones he added. He had huge digital clocks installed around the locker room to avoid any excuses about being late to a meeting. He was constantly upbeat, talking about stacking good days.

The Cowboys responded, cutting down on turnovers and penalties, and began forcing other teams into mistakes. They went 5-3, winning four games with 38-year-old backup quarterback Jon Kitna and another with third-stringer Stephen McGee making his first career start. Their losses were by a total of seven points.

"I learned a ton," Garrett said.

Jones probably would've hired him during the season, but had to wait because of a league rule requiring him to consider minority candidates. The only two people he interviewed were black: receivers coach Ray Sherman and Miami assistant head coach Todd Bowles.

"Easy is not the right word, but there wasn't a big decision here for me," Jones said.

Jones added that other teams asked to interview Garrett for their head coaching jobs. Jones wouldn't say how many, only that "it was plural."

When Jones made Garrett interim coach, he kidded him about joining the club as a backup, then joining the head coaching ranks as a fill-in.

"I said, 'Some day, somehow, you're going to walk through that front door broad-shouldered, reach over there and grab it just like it was yours from the very beginning,'" Jones said. "Well, we had a little visit the other day and I said, 'Jason, we're walking through the front door when we announce this. You deserve this. You've earned it.'"

Blame is everywhere for no Pacquiao-Marquez rematch



As criticism of Bob Arum’s decision to go with Shane Mosley instead of Juan Manuel Marquez for Manny Pacquiao’s next fight on May 7 lingers like a Holiday hangover, there’s a ballot that unwittingly supports Arum’s controversial move.

Marquez isn’t among the nominees for 2010 Fighter of the Year, the most prestigious prize among those that the Boxing Writers Association of America presents every year after a January vote. Pacquiao, Filipino Congressman and international celebrity, is there and should be. So, too, are Wladimir Klitschko, Sergio Martinez, Giovanni Segura and Andre Ward.

Marquez’ absence is an omission that Arum can mock, seize and spin into a sales pitch for Mosley-Pacquiao, which has been battered from pillar-to-post by condemnations from everybody who has ripped the Top Rank boss for letting his feud with Golden Boy Promotions get in the way of a Marquez-Pacquiao rematch.

If the writers don’t include Marquez at the top of their ticket, why would the public buy one? All along, Arum has said that Marquez is not known by the casual, so-called crossover customer, who apparently couldn’t pick him out of a lineup that includes Joshua Clottey, Antonio Margarito and a couple of lampposts.

Arum’s argument about Marquez sounds like a rhetorical feint, if not an insult to Mexico’s many fans, who aren’t casual about their country’s best fighters. Besides, Pacquiao’s international stardom is such that I’m beginning to think he could draw a crowd against one of the lampposts, which might prove to be more durable than the faded Mosley.

There are plenty of reasons for Marquez’ absence from the ballot. Plenty of blame, too. Start here. Start with me. I didn’t nominate him, mostly because I overlooked him all over again and also because I would not vote for him even if he were a 2010 nominee. My vote is for Martinez, the likely winner for his rocket-like rise to prominence with a victory over Kelly Pavlik and dramatic

knockout of Paul Williams.

Hindsight and December hot debate about Pacquiao against Mosley instead of Marquez, however, forced me to rethink the ballot. Instead of Klitschko or Ward or even Segura, Marquez should have been one of the five nominees.

Klitschko retained his heavyweight control of the Euro zone with victories over Samuel Peter and Eddie Chambers. He figured to win both.

In opponent shuffles that have plagued the 168-pound division’s Super Six, Ward beat Sakio Bika and over-matched Allan Green. No surprise there either.

Segura, a Mexican junior-flyweight, proved to be as much of a surprise as he is unknown. In 2010, Segura went 4-0, adding the World Boxing Organization’s 108-pound title to the World Boxing Association’s version in a run

that included a stunner – a stoppage of Puerto Rican Ivan Calderon in a bout nominated for Fight of the Year.

OK, keep Segura on the ballot. Instead, subtract Klitschko or Ward and add Marquez, who came back from a one-sided loss in late 2009 to a bigger Floyd Mayweather Jr. with victories in 2010 over Juan Diaz and Michael Katsidis.

In July, Marquez won a unanimous decision over Diaz in a rematch of a Marquez victory, a ninth-round stoppage, in the 2009 Fight of the Year. In November, a dramatic ninth-round TKO of Katsidis is on the 2010 ballot for Fight of the Year. If a victory in a fight voted as the best in one year followed by another win in a fight nominated to be the best in the next year doesn’t add up to some consideration for Fighter of this Year, what does?

Even if he doesn’t win the vote, his nomination represents a measure of respect that has been withheld, perhaps because of his consistency. The 34-year-old Marquez, who fought Pacquiao to a draw before losing a controversial split-decision to the Filipino, has been practicing it for so long that there is nothing new about his tactical brilliance. It’s expected, meaning that–yawn–it’s assumed and easy to forget.

Too easy. I forgot about Marquez and so did my colleagues. The BWAA selected Pacquiao as Fighter of the Decade, which makes Marquez the Most Unappreciated Fighter of those same 10 years. If we can’t put Marquez on the ballot, it’s hard to rip Arum for not making the rematch in a rivalry that is a third leg short of being a decisive trilogy.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	7	.794	—
New York	20	14	.588	7
Philadelphia	14	21	.400	13 1/2
Toronto	12	23	.343	15 1/2
New Jersey	10	25	.286	17 1/2

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	28	9	.757	—
Orlando	23	12	.657	4
Atlanta	24	14	.632	4 1/2
Charlotte	12	21	.364	14
Washington	8	25	.242	18

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	23	11	.676	—
Indiana	14	18	.438	8
Milwaukee	13	20	.394	9 1/2
Detroit	11	24	.314	12 1/2
Cleveland	8	27	.229	15 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	29	6	.829	—
Dallas	26	9	.743	3
New Orleans	21	15	.583	8 1/2
Houston	16	19	.457	13
Memphis	16	19	.457	13

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	24	12	.667	—
Oklahoma City	24	13	.649	1/2
Denver	20	15	.571	3 1/2
Portland	19	17	.528	5
Minnesota	9	27	.250	15

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	25	11	.694	—
Phoenix	14	19	.424	9 1/2
Golden State	14	21	.400	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	24	.314	13 1/2
Sacramento	8	25	.242	15 1/2

Yesterday’s Games				
Oklahoma City	99	Dallas	95	
Sacramento	122	Denver	102	

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	30	276	243	848	28.3
Stoudemire, NYK	32	320	199	845	26.4
Ellis, GOL	32	308	146	814	25.4
Bryant, LAL	33	290	210	836	25.3
Wade, MIA	32	272	212	785	24.5
James, MIA	34	281	222	830	24.4
Nowitzki, DAL	29	260	153	700	24.1
Anthony, DEN	24	200	161	576	24.0
Rose, CHI	30	273	120	716	23.9
Gordon, LAC	31	246	193	737	23.8
Martin, HOU	32	213	246	744	23.3
Williams, UTA	33	241	198	737	22.3
Westbrook, OKC	34	259	230	758	22.3
Beasley, MIN	31	274	112	689	22.2
Griffin, LAC	33	273	158	708	21.5
Bargnani, TOR	27	217	106	572	21.2
Howard, ORL	31	228	199	655	21.1
Granger, IND	30	219	128	630	21.0
Love, MIN	33	229	185	686	20.8
Gay, MEM	31	246	107	641	20.7

FG PERCENTAGE				
	FG	FGA	PCT	
Hilario, DEN	143	228	.627	

Odom, LAL	212	366	.579
Horford, ATL	251	436	.576
Okafor, NOR	139	242	.574
Howard, ORL	228	406	.562
Ibaka, OKC	133	239	.556
Boozer, CHI	134	243	.551
Young, PHL	165	301	.548
Millsap, UTA	234	428	.547
Nowitzki, DAL	260	477	.545

REBOUNDS					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	33	162	349	511	15.5
Howard, ORL	31	107	297	404	13.0
Randolph, MEM	28	122	230	352	12.6
Griffin, LAC	33	127	283	410	12.4
Camby, POR	30	98	239	337	11.2
Gasol, LAL	33	119	241	360	10.9
Varejao, CLE	30	96	197	293	9.8
Horford, ATL	35	85	255	340	9.7
Okafor, NOR	33	93	227	320	9.7
Odom, LAL	33	74	241	315	9.5

ASSISTS					
	G	AST	AVG		
Rondo, BOS	20	275	13.8		
Nash, PHX	29	305	10.5		
Paul, NOR	33	324	9.8		
Williams, UTA	33	310	9.4		
Felton, NYK	32	286	8.9		
Kidd, DAL	31	273	8.8		
Rose, CHI	30	256	8.5		
Wall, WAS	19	159	8.4		
Westbrook, OKC	34	276	8.1		
Miller, POR	32	240	7.5		

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS SCORES

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Tournament of Champions, a \$5.6 million U.S. PGA event played at the 7,411-yard, par-73 Plantation Course at the Kapalua Resort.

FIRST ROUND		
Jonathan Byrd	31-35=66	
Carl Pettersson	34-32=66	
Ben Crane	33-34=67	
Bill Haas	35-33=68	
Charley Hoffman	35-33=68	
Jim Furyk	32-36=68	
Robert Garrigus	35-34=69	
Stuart Appleby	33-36=69	
Anthony Kim	34-35=69	
Francesco Molinari	34-35=69	
Steve Stricker	34-35=69	
Matt Kuchar	34-35=69	
Bill Lunde	35-35=70	
Heath Slocum	32-38=70	
Ian Poulter	33-37=70	
Ryan Palmer	33-37=70	
Bubba Watson	35-35=70	
Hunter Mahan	34-36=70	
Graeme McDowell	34-37=71	
Zach Johnson	36-35=71	
Dustin Johnson	33-38=71	
Arjun Atwal	34-38=72	
Cameron Beckman	37-35=72	
Derek Lamely	35-37=72	
Jason Bohn	36-36=72	
Tim Clark	37-35=72	
Camilo Villegas	33-39=72	
Ernie Els	36-36=72	
Matt Bettencourt	35-38=73	
Adam Scott	36-37=73	
Jason Day	37-36=73	
Justin Rose	36-39=75	
Rocco Mediate	41-38=79	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOV'T

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edition of the quadrennial meet.

White first announced NMASA’s plan to bid for the 2017 Mini Games in September 2010 during the launch of the TAGA Sports Magazine, saying that getting the hosting rights for the

MINOR

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nor cruised to her third consecutive straight sets victory, 6-2, 6-1, to advance to the finals.

Dargham and Ponton squared off in the other semis duel with the latter surviving the former in three sets, 6-0, 5-7, 6-3. Dargham was the same player who defeated Minor in the U18 singles and the CNMI netter missed a rematch against the former after the semis loss to Ponton.

In the finals on Wednesday, Minor picked up where she left off, sweeping Ponton, 6-2, 6-3.

BOWLERS

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be handed out on Feb. 17 during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Grill of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Other candidates for the year-end awards are the top male and female athletes from January to November. The list includes tennis’ Jeff Race and Peter Loyola, triathlon’s Kieran Daly and Tyce Mister, athletics’ Tyrone Omar, Keum Bae Ji, and D.J. Ngirchongor, bowling’s Rusty Musca, Robert Talavera, and Ruselle Zapanta, and all the gold medalists in the 2010 Micronesian Games.

Race took the January Male Athlete of the Month plum after ruling the men’s open singles division in the Saipan Tennis Challenge, while Loyola won in February after his title win in a tournament in Guam.

Daly was the March winner, getting

GOVERNMENT

From Page 28

This year’s government/business caging is set to run until April and will hold two games every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

The league did not have a competition in 2010 thus 2009 winner Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be this season’s defending champion. DCCA topped NTT Docomo in Game 1 of the finals, 80-70,

DCCA was unbeaten in the double-round robin playoffs and earned a

event will be a big source of pride for the Commonwealth.

The quadrennial event besides providing tough competitions for athletes in the region will also help boost the weakening economy in the CNMI, as more than 2,000 athletes and officials and their families and friends will be on island during the Games.

Minor dropped to the consolation draw after losing to tournament second-seed Melissa Esguerra, 1-6, 2-6. The CNMI bet won her opening match in the U16 singles against Simone Phillips, 6-4, 6-4.

The tournament in Shepparton was Minor’s first and it ended last Thursday with the Commonwealth junior netter posting a 7-2 record in the five-day netfest.

She had a 6-2 mark in the singles and a 1-0 slate in doubles. In the U18 and U16 singles, Minor won 12 sets and dropped four. She also prevailed in 80 games and lost 50 for a winning percentage of 63.8. In the doubles, Minor and teammate

NMASA’s nod after becoming the first CNMI male finisher both in XTERRA Saipan sports course and Tagaman Triathlon, while Mister was awarded the same plum in June after leading his team to victory in the Guam Extreme Adventure Race.

Omar and Ngirchongor won in April and May for their impressive performance in the All Schools qualifier and CNMI National Championships, respectively, while Keum Bae Ji notched the November award for topping the Turkey Trot Run. Zapanta, Talavera and Musca gained NMASA monthly awards for reigning in SBA roll-offs.

For the 2010 Female Athletes of the Year Award, the other candidates are triathlon’s Mieke Carey and Mamiko Oshima-Berger, athletics’ Yvonne Bennett, bowling’s Gina Sablan, and all the gold medalist in the 2010 Micronesian Games.

twice-to-beat advantage in the finals. Before the playoff round, DCCA almost did not make it to the next phase of the league, as it finished the regular season with a 4-7 record for a tie for eighth to ninth place with Bank of Guam.

Then the eventual champion needed four wins in the wild card phase to make it to the playoffs. First, DCCA beat Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters, 96-72, then downed Customs, 85-50, and CHC, 85-79, for the right to face BoG for the last playoffs seat. DCCA eventually edged Bank of Guam, 85-81, to

If the CNMI pushes through with its bid and wins, the Commonwealth can look forward to athletes and officials from 22 island-nations competing in more than 20 sports. The Mini Games could be the biggest multi-sports regional events to take place in the CNMI if the bidding rights are award to the Commonwealth..

Amanda Korinihona of the Solomon Islands won two sets and 12 games. In nine games, Minor collected 14 won sets against four losses and won 100 games and lost 53. In the entire tournament, the Saipan Southern High School freshman had a winning percentage of 65.4.

Minor is in Australia as part of the Junior ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team and will be competing in two more tournaments—the 2011 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup in Albury, New South Wales and the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria—before returning to Saipan on Jan. 23.

Carey won two monthly awards, first in March for becoming the top Saipan finisher in the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman. Her second NMASA monthly plum came in August when she won in the Micro Games, both in individual and team races.

Oshima-Berger also won twice, first in June for placing third among 150 runners in a mountain run in Niigita, Japan and fifth among 1,200 runners in a half marathon event in Sapporo. She got the monthly award again in November for ruling the Turkey Trot Run for the third straight year.

Gigi Zapanta was also a two-time winner, gaining the monthly award in April and December, while fellow bowler Sablan won in September.

Bennett was May’s best after setting a CNMI national record in the 100m race during the CNMI National Championship.

complete the playoffs cast.

DCCA continued its winning ways in the playoffs en route to a Cinderella finish in the 2009 edition of the league. DCCA dethroned pennant champion Hyatt in the first round, 77-68, edged Public School System-McGraw-Hill in the quarterfinals, 77-71, and then stunned 2008 champion IT&E in the semifinals, 82-72.

Meanwhile, for more information about the 2011 government/business league, contact league commissioner Mario Sablan at 664-2508. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**

Durant, Westbrook
lead Thunder past
Mavs

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Byrd, Pettersson
share first-round
lead

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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Gov't backs 10th Mini Games bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association plan to bring the 2017 Pacific Mini Games to the Commonwealth got a needed boost from the government.



NMAA president Michael White announced during the association's monthly meeting last Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial re-affirmed his support for the CNMI's bid for the quadrennial event.

White added Fitial will form a



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center front row, seen here together with dignitaries and special guests during the opening of the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau in August 2010, will be forming a pre-bid committee for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

pre-bid committee to oversee the proposal. The committee is expected to have most of the stakeholders in the sports community and key individuals in the gov-

ernment and business sectors as members and officials.

The governor has set a meeting on Jan. 25 to weigh in whether a formal bid will be submitted or not.

"I am hoping that we will be able to push through with our plan to bid for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games," White said.

The bid is due in March this

year during the Pacific Games Council meeting. Besides the CNMI, Vanuatu is also expected to submit a bid to host the 10th

See GOV'T on Page 27



Manacop



Zapanta

Bowlers chosen as December's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association awarded the last monthly plum to bowlers Simon Manacop and Gigi Zapanta.

Manacop and Zapanta were named December Athletes of the Month after their impressive victories in the Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament.

Manacop ruled the December roll-off for his first win in the monthly tournament, beating runner-up Percy Omechelang by only

five pinfalls. Manacop tallied 856 pinfalls, knocking more than 200 pins in the first three games (255, 206, and 235 pinfalls) before collecting 160 in Game 4 for an average of 214 pinfalls per game.

In the Queen of the Lanes, Zapanta defeated eventual runner-up Yho Villavicencio by seven pinfalls with the former posting a four-game total of 662 pinfalls against the latter's 655. It was Zapanta's third time to prevail in the monthly roll-offs.

With the two bowlers getting the last NMAA monthly award, they qualified for the 2010 NMAA Male and Female Athletes of the Year race.

The coveted awards will See BOWLERS on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DCCA's Peter Camacho goes for a layup against two NTT Docomo defenders during their title game in the 2009 edition of the government/business basketball league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Government/business caging meeting Jan. 12



The Inter-Government/Business Basketball League is back and will have its 2011 season opening tentatively on Feb. 8 at the

Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Teams interested in competing in the league are requested to attend a meeting on Jan. 12 at the conference room of the Ada gym at 12pm.

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Minor beats Aussie netter in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thea Minor added a singles win to her doubles title after dominating the consolation draw in the U16 division of the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia.

After losing in the Round of 16 in the 32-player draw of the U16 singles event, Minor swept her last four games in the consolation bracket to have a strong finish in the tournament played at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club in Shepparton, Victoria.



In her first game in the consolation draw, the 15-year-old Minor was paired against Shepparton's Jade Kay and won in straight sets, 6-2, 6-0. Next up for Minor was Victoria's Caitlyn Price and the CNMI bet prevailed anew with a 6-0, 7-5 victory.

The win moved Minor to the semifinals of the consolation draw, joining New South Wales's Jade Heffer and Melbourne's Alana Dargham and Stacey Ponton.

In the semifinals, the CNMI junior tennis player was pitted against Heffer and Mi-

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Minor